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Multilateral Talks on Middle East Held in Moscow

Israel's Beilin Welcomes Talks

TA0607112093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met in Moscow today with the speaker of the Russian Parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov. Beilin said Khasbulatov believed the Russians were not sufficiently involved in the peace process and he replied that Israel would welcome a more active involvement by Russia.

Beilin proposed that a joint working group be set up, consisting of Knesset and Russian Parliament members. The group would deal with constitutional legislation and economic reforms, on the lines followed in Israel in 1985 to lower inflation.

Beilin is also due to meet today with the U.S. State Department peace team, including Edward Djerejian, the next U.S. ambassador to Israel. The meeting is in Moscow, where a session of the steering committee of the multilateral talks on arms control and regional security is to be held.

Israel Opposed to Working Group on Jerusalem

TA0607165793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] The United States suggests that if progress is made in talks between the sides on transferring authority to the Palestinians, economic plans that are part of the multilateral talks will also be implemented in the territories. This proposal was raised by Edward Djerejian in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin today. The two met in Moscow in preparation for a session of the steering committee of the multilateral talks scheduled for tomorrow.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that in raising this proposal the United States is linking the bilateral and multilateral talks.

In today's preparatory meeting, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin said that Israel is firmly opposed to a working group on Jerusalem as part of the multilateral talks. Mr. Beilin made this remark while various Palestinians lobbied various delegations for such a working group.

Al-Husayni Arrives

TA0607201893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has arrived in Moscow to head the Palestinian delegation to the session of the steering committee of the multilateral talks. This was learned by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. So far no meeting has been scheduled between al-Husayni and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who is also in Moscow.

Sources in Jerusalem expressed satisfaction over the participation of al-Husayni in the Moscow session, because this indicates the importance which the Palestinians attribute to the multilateral talks.

Beilin Interviewed at Talks

PM0707122393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jul 93 First Edition p 3

[Report on interview with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Konstantin Eggert; place and date not given: "Sale of Weapons to Iran Is a Strategic Mistake, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Told IZVESTIYA"]

[Text] Russia remains an important but not a leading participant in the Near East peace process at a time when the strategy of "active partnership" formulated by the Clinton administration has made Washington the indispensable partner of all sides. This is the viewpoint expressed in an exclusive interview for IZVESTIYA by Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

Dr. Beilin heads the Israeli delegation at the third session of the committee to promote multilateral talks, which is being held in Moscow. The committee's task is to coordinate the activity of five working groups called upon to discuss major regional problems—those of disarmament, economic cooperation, refugees, water resources, and ecology. Israel has attached great significance to multilateral talks from the beginning, believing the discussion of these issues to be the optimum means of achieving mutual understanding with its neighbors.

Not all Arab states share this view today—Syria and Lebanon have refused to participate in multilateral discussions until progress has been made in bilateral talks. But 13 countries of the Arab East have sent their representatives to the working groups and, according to Y. Beilin, the Israelis have formed a normal working relationship with them reinforced by informal contacts.

He assessed the ninth and 10th rounds of the bilateral talks, which were held in the U.S. capital, as unsuccessful. Pointing out that their only positive aspect was the U.S. proposals sent to the Israelis and the Palestinians with regard to resolving the impasse. "Regardless of their substance, the fact of active mediation is very important in itself. There are things which cannot be implemented on a purely bilateral basis, without the participation of a third side," Yosi Beilin believes. He pins great hopes on the upcoming trip to the Near East by the American Dennis Ross, special coordinator of peace talks. It is possible that this mission will prepare a new tour of the region for Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Concerning Russia's participation in the Madrid process, the Israeli diplomat said: "We want Moscow to continue to be involved in it, above all because special relations link it with a number of Arab countries. At the same time we are perfectly well aware that the Near East now certainly does rank first in the system of your country's foreign policy priorities because of objective reasons. I cannot say that Russia plays a leading role in the peace talks."

Dr. Beilin was very frank in answering a question about Israel's attitude to deliveries of Russian weapons to Iran. "The Tehran regime is the main threat to the security of my country and the whole region. Even when we conclude peace with Arab neighbors, Iran will remain for us a hostile state," the deputy foreign minister said. "We can imagine what great difficulties your military industry is experiencing today. Sometimes, however, preference should probably be given to considerations of strategic stability over an instant economic advantage. Israel regrets that Russia has adopted a decision to sell weapons to the Iranians. We consider this a mistake."

U.S. Official Comments on Talks

LD0707165993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1641 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS—A group for promoting multilateral talks on the Middle East has ended its session in Moscow which was held in a constructive and friendly atmosphere and gave grounds to hope for reaching peace and security in the region, said Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, at a news conference upon completion of the session.

The session was attended by representatives of Russia, the United States, a number of Arab states, Israel, Canada, Japan and representatives of the European Community.

Commenting on the results of previous multilateral talks, Djerejian pointed out that participants in these talks had managed to achieve concrete and positive results. In particular, the U.S. official pointed out that concrete programmes are being implemented and translated into life, which are aimed at economic and social development of the Near East and the strengthening of cooperation between states and raising the living standards of the people of this region.

Djerejian informed Russian and foreign journalists that a schedule for further multilateral talks had been worked out at Wednesday's session. A session of the working group to discuss the problem of refugees has been scheduled in Tunis on October 12-14, issues of economic cooperation will be discussed in Copenhagen on November 8-9, the use of water resources—in Beijing on October 26-28, control over weapons and regional security—in Moscow on November 2-4, on the environmental protection—in Egypt on November 15-17.

The next session of the group for promoting talks on the Middle East has been scheduled in Tokyo in mid-December or the beginning of January, 1994.

Pointing out the importance of multilateral character of the Middle East peace process, Djerejian pointed out that real peace between Arab and Israel can be achieved in the course of bilateral talks only. Vikor Pasuvalyuk, director of the Near Eastern and African Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said that " we regard bilateral Arab-Israeli talks to be the core of the peace process, while multilateral talks are only an important supplement to bilateral talks."

Israeli Envoy Optimistic for Peace

LD0707214493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2047 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow July 8 TASS—"I believe that now we have the historical possibility to achieve peace in the Middle East in a really very short time," Yosi Beilin, Israeli deputy foreign minister told a news conference for Russian and foreign journalists in Moscow on Wednesday. The deputy foreign minister took part in a meeting of the Group of Assistance to Multilateral Talks on Middle East.

According to Yosi Beilin, the settlement of the Middle East problem is possible because all the states in the region are really prepared to establish peace, understand its necessity and clearly see how to achieve it. "At the present time it is necessary for us to make a technological breakthrough from the readiness to come to a decision on peace to the decision itself," the Israeli diplomat said. A decisive factor for making this breakthrough is interference of a third side, Yosi Beilin noted. In this connection the Israeli deputy foreign minister stressed the great importance of the work of the co-chairmen of the peace conference on the Middle east—the United States and Russia.

Speaking on Israel's approach towards the problem of the Middle East settlement, Yosi Beilin said that peace with Syria directly depends on the settlement of the problem of the Golan Heights. "The depth of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights will be directly proportional to the depth of attained peace," the Israeli diplomat said.

Peace with Lebanon is supposed to be concluded within the framework of a bilateral peace treaty which envisages a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon in exchange for security guarantees for Israel.

Yosi Beilin believes that an Israeli-Jordanian settlement is possible already at the present time. The Israeli side sees a settlement with Palestinians within the framework of Jordanian- Palestinian federation which will include the Gaza Strip and considerable parts of the West Bank of the Jordan river on condition that these territories are demilitarized and the appropriate security guarantees are given. Yosi Beilin noted that when settling these problems, Israel will insist on guarantees of security of its borders, as well as on Jerusalem remaining an indivisible capital of Israel.

The Israeli diplomat highly estimated the results of the meeting of the Group of Assistance to Multilateral Talks on the Middle East which ended in Moscow on Wednesday noting that it is necessary for Israel and Arab countries to make "extraordinary intellectual efforts" to work out a general model of the region at the time of peace.

Khasbulatov Meets With Beilin at Parliament

LD0607140793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 6 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov held a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel Yosi Beilin in the parliament building here today, the Parliamentary Press Service reported.

Questions concerning the development of bilateral, including interparliamentary relations between Russia and Israel were discussed during the talks. Both sides reaffirmed that leaders of the two countries seeked to develop closer cooperation in different spheres of social life.

At the request of the guest, the Russian Supreme Soviet chairman gave an assessment of economic and constitutional reforms taking place in the country. According to him, the working out and the adoption of a new Russian Constitution is at present not the most important thing. "The key to all problems is the economy. The norms of the old constitution, which are at present in force, does not impede economic reforms and development," Ruslan Khasbulatov noted.

Briefs Beilin on Russian Economy

PM0707143093 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA/ITAR-TASS column: "Meeting at the House of Soviets"]

[Text] Russian parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov met with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in the House of Soviets 6 July.

During the conversation, questions of the development of bilateral—including interparliamentary—relations between Russia and Israel were discussed. The sides reaffirmed the desire of both countries' leaders for closer cooperation in various spheres of public life.

The Supreme Soviet chairman, at the guest's request, gave an assessment of the economic transformations taking place in the country and the constitutional reform process. In his view, the drafting and adoption of Russia's new Constitution is not the most important thing at present. "The key to solving all the problems is the economy. The existing norms of the old Constitution do not hamper economic transformations and development," he noted.

Baltic Leaders Issue Appeal to G-7 on Russian Withdrawal

WS0707141493 Tallinn BNS in English 1119 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tallinn, July 06, BNS—Baltic leaders launched a joint appeal to the heads of the seven largest industrial nations, the G-7, for their help in pushing the Russian troops withdrawal.

On the eve of the first anniversary since the Helsinki Document, the three Baltic leaders asked for G-7 support of the "early, orderly and complete withdrawal of...foreign troops from the...Baltic states," in accordance with the 1992 treaty. The letter also asks the G-7 leaders to raise the issue during their Tokyo summit later this week.

The Helsinki document requires all four countries, the Baltic states and Russia, to conclude withdrawal agreements, including timetables, " without delay." The document was signed by Baltic leaders and by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"One year has passed, but unfortunately neither Estonia, Latvia nor Lithuania have been able to abide by this requirement," said the letter from Estonian President Lennart Meri, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and Latvian parliament Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs.

"We have been prevented from fulfilling our commitment by the Russian Government's refusal to present draft agreements including timetables," said the leaders. Only Lithuania has managed to set a definite withdrawal deadline, and thousands of Russian troops still remain in all three Baltic countries.

"While we greatly support the democratic processes taking place in the Russian Federation," they say, "we must reiterate once more that a true test of the political and democratic will of Russia is its willingness to abide by all of its internationally undertaken commitments."

Estonian Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste harped on the Helsinki Document's anniversary, and Russia's delay, in much stronger tones last week.

"How can you speak about a speedy withdrawal after a year has passed?" he asked.

CSCE Committee Debates Refugee Problems

LD0707171693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki July 7 TASS—Work in committees—for security, economy, human dimension—began at the second session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) underway in the Finnish capital. Delivering a report in the third committee, representative of the Austrian Parliament Peter Schieder said that the region of CSCE is now living through serious difficulties connected with the increase of migration and the growing stream of refugees. All this leads to serious political and structural complications not only for separate countries but also for the security and stability in the region as a whole.

Schieder believes that the international system of migration that formed in the fifties no longer suits the tasks of the present situation. It has actually been thrown out of gear by the growth of extremism in respect of refugees and by the emergence of political parties and movements rallied by xenophobia.

The Parliamentary Assembly supports the use of CSCE instruments for early spotting and prevention of conflicts before they deteriorate into crises, Schieder said.

A world United Nations Conference on Human Rights held recently in Vienna urged states and intergovernmental organisations to treat national minorities on a basis of equality, he said. Therefore it is necessary to take measures to promote their full-fledged participation in every area of political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society.

ITAR-TASS asked Nikolay Ryabov, head of the Russian delegation, deputy chairman of the Russian Parliament, to comment on the situation at the parliamentary session prior to a debate that will probably be acute. Ryabov said it is surprising that the Moldovan delegation tries to raise the question of Russian troops withdrawal as a separate item of the agenda. Baltic states wish to face the assembly with the same problem. "I believe that this is nothing more than an attempt to avoid the responsibility for unsavoury actions that have been taken and are being taken regarding Russsian-speaking population. I mean sheer discrimination bordering on ethnic cleansing, gross violations of human rights and freedoms", Ryabov said. "This is an old tactic essentially aimed at distracting attention of the European public from uncivilised actions of leaders of some countries", he said.

Abolishing Commander in Chief Post 'Unlawful'

PM0707154493 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Jul 93 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Commentary by deputy desk editor Vyacheslav Kocherov: "Main Command Abolished. What Will Become of CIS Collective Defense?"]

[Text] In a conversation with journalists Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the Council of Defense Ministers of the CIS member states, described the decisions to reorganize the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command and abolish the post of commander in chief, adopted 15 June at a session of the Council of Defense Ministers, as unlawful.

What was the basis for such a serious statement? Let us trace the recent sequence of events.

It is well known that Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov voluntarily laid down his powers as commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces in connection with his transfer to other work—as secretary of the Russian Security Council. But as he left he slammed the door, as the saying goes. We all remember his final verdict on what you could call his own brainchild: The continued existence of the Main Command is not expedient, since there are no Joint Armed Forces. We also remember parliament's reaction to this revelation, which offended the marshal.

It must be said that the phrase about self-elimination by the coordinating body of defense structures, uttered by the Main Command leader at the recent session of the Council of Defense Ministers, came as a surprise to most of those present. The point is that draft documents had been drawn up in preparation for this session, designed specifically to strengthen the defense commonwealth, not destroy it. Therefore none of those present were prepared for such a drastic development on the agenda, neither psychologically or in other ways.

At that June session of the Main Command there was not a single defense minister there, only their representatives. Therefore they were not entitled spontaneously to adopt a decision to reorganize the Main Command. Nor were the defense ministers entitled to make that decision, even if all of them had been present at the session. As is well known, there is no unity on this question today. Indeed, the heads of the military departments of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan have already come out against the decision of the recent Council of Defense Ministers session. By agreement, the Council of Defense Ministers is entitled only to make proposals, while the decisive say rests with the Council of Heads of State.

How can one explain such a drastic change in the views of Marshal of Aviation Shaposhnikov, who prior to 15 June had insistently defended the need for a single coordinating body in the CIS collective security system? Some observers are inclined to think that the commander in chief's position was influenced in some way by the Russian president, with whom the marshal of aviation had a talk on the eve of the recent Council of Defense Ministers session. However, while naming Yeltsin, many have in mind Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who has always seen Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov as a rival. Incidentally, this hypothesis has many supporters not only at the Main Command, but at the Defense Ministry.

However, sympathies and antipathies are a subject for a different discussion. They concern us only insofar as they relate to the collective security system, the need for which is already clearly felt even by those who only recently were opposed to it. The abolition of the post of commander in chief and the reorganization of the Main Command as a joint staff, as Shaposhnikov very well knows, will require a revision of something like 60 international legal acts, including the CIS Charter, the Treaty on Collective Security, and the Lisbon Protocol, which vests in the Main Command the functions of managing the strategic forces of the former USSR.

In effect, a step has been taken after which the former Soviet Army is finally and irreversibly broken up into fragments— hostile fragments, some indications suggest.

Is this not too high a price to pay for someone's ambitions?

Black Sea Fleet Officers Criticize 17 Jun Agreement

PM0707145993 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Jul 93 p 1

[Statement by Black Sea Fleet staff officers' meeting: "Under Russia's Wing"]

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet corps of staff officers assesses the agreement signed 17 June 1993 between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on urgent measures to form Russian and Ukrainian navies on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet as yet another attempt by the Russian Federation and Ukrainian presidents to solve their political problems by postponing any solution to the Black Sea Fleet problem.

The agreement adopted by the sides does not solve the Black Sea Fleet's problems and fails entirely to take into account the most important point—the fate of the Fleet's personnel, workers, and employees, Armed Forces veterans, and members of their families.

Once again, social and legal guarantees have not been defined, and only the sides' territorial and property claims have been examined.

The Black Sea Fleet staff officers' meeting appeals to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and the Ukrainian Supreme Council not to ratify this agreement, and proposes that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet immediately place the Black Sea Fleet under Russian Federation jurisdiction and register Black Sea Fleet personnel as Russian Federation Armed Forces personnel serving in the Black Sea Fleet who are covered by all Russian Federation legislative acts and orders from the Russian Federation defense minister.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Jul

LD0807045993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0450 GMT 8 Jul 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 8 TASS—Newspapers give wide coverage today to President Yeltsin's departure for Tokyo to meet leaders of the G7 countries there.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA comments on the decision of the G7 leaders, adopted on Wednesday, to lift all restrictions on trade with Russia by 2003 and stresses that during the Tokyo summit the Russian president will seek to make Russia an equal partner of western countries earlier than that. In the opinion of the newspaper, Yeltsin needs right now equal partner relationship with the West.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA do not make any forecasts over a possible outcome of the talks that the Russian president is going to hold in Tokyo.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA carries an article about Yuri Skokov under the "Political Portrait" heading. The newspaper describes him as "the most mysterious figure in the president's team".

PRAVDA believes it is necessary to stop the state emergency committee trial and insists on the complete rehabilitation of all the defendants and the recognition of the fact that their 17-month custody was illegal.

Newspapers carry reports about the decision of the Estonian leadership to "revise" some of the articles in the law on foreigners, which resulted in the worsening of Estonian-Russian relations.

St.Petersburg newspapers report a meeting with journalists of senior executives of the two railway terminals—the Leningradsky terminal in Moscow and the Moscovsky terminal in St. Petersburg. According to St. Peterburgskie VEDOMOSTI, they told about the problems facing the major railway terminals of the two cities. Their thorough rebuilding is being planned. In St. Petersburg it will be connected with the construction of the high-speed railway between Moscow and St. Petersburg. The Moscovsky railway terminal will be expanded through the building of a hotel and a business centre at the nearby Ligovsky prospekt. The Leningradsky terminal will be fitted with a roofing over the platforms similar to those existing at the Moskovsky terminal.

VECHERNY PETERBURG publishes interesting results of a sociological survey, conducted by the sociological centre on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of Leningrad—St. Peterburg TV. The rating of individual TV programmes placed them in the following order: 600 seconds, Fact, TV courier, 13th question, St.Petersburg engagement and Adam's Apple. St. Petersburg residents give preverence to serials and feature films. News programmes and show programmes come second and third. This year 97 per cent of city residents regard themselves as televiewers, while in 1967 the figure was 67 per cent.

Further Coverage of Yeltsin Attending G-7 Summit

Krasikov: Visit Will Help Russia's Tasks

LD0707110693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Tokyo July 7 TASS—Speaking on the G7 summit, head of the Russian president's press service Anatoliy Krasikov said here on Wednesday that the main task of the Russian delegation at the summit meeting is "to come to full agreement with all G7 countries on broad political and economic cooperation".

He stressed, explaining his idea in an interview with ITAR-TASS that the G-7 summit talks "should help resolve tasks facing Russia now".

These tasks are "to carry out economic and political reforms, democratic changes, to ensure favourable conditions for transition to a market economy and to complete transition from totalitarianism to a democratic system of free market", he continued.

Krasikov noted that the programme of Yeltsin's three-day visit to Japan provides for a meeting with Premier Kiichi Miyazawa. He also plans to meet former Japanese premier Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Yeltsin will conduct talks with the leaders of the seven industrialised nations on July 9 according to the formula "Seven plus One", where the Russian leader will outline Moscow's position on cooperation between Russia and Western countries.

Krasikov stressed that "the Russian side will seek to abolish discriminatory restrictions in relations between Russia and the group of seven nations".

The programme of the president's visit also provides for a series of bilateral talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major, Italian Premier Carlo Ciampi and Canadian Cabinet head Kim Campbell.

Krasikov also said that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will meet his French and Italian counterparts.

Asked about the main distinguishing features between the present summit and the G7 meeting in Munich last year, Krasikov pointed, above all, to "the changed political situation in the world, as well as in Russia".

He called attention to the referendum in Russia held last April, which, according to Krasikov, "confirmed the desire of the overwhelming majority of the Russian people to support the policy of reforms".

"The support by Russian population for the president's course gives Boris Yeltsin the right to speak from the position of a leader acting both in the interests and on behalf of the people of the entire country," the head of the press service stressed.

He also noted that a big package of important international agreements was adopted over the past year, including those in the sphere of disarmament. Krasikov claimed that trends for detente and cooperation based on partnership, and later for alliance between Russia and Western countries, assumed a stable nature.

He specially accentuated the spirit of the summit between the Russian and U.S. Presidents in Vancouver in April, 1993. "It was a meeting of allies in many respects rather than partners," Krasikov underlined.

"It is not accidental that Yeltsin's visit to Japan will end with talks with the U.S. President on July 10," Krasikov concluded.

Union Picketing G-7 Embassies

LD0707135693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The negative attitude of certain circles toward the G-7 meeting is evident not only in Japan. Today in Moscow the Russian All-Popular Union [Rossiyskiy Obshchenarodnyy Soyuz] is going to start picketing the embassies of all the countries participating in the meeting.

Germany, Japan Discuss Russian Situation

LD0707153793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo July 7 TASS—Western aid to Russia is necessary to make its reform irreversible, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said at a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Kabun Muto on Wednesday [7 July]. Both ministers take part in the G-7 meeting which opened in Tokyo today.

According to Japanese Foreign Ministry officials, Muto said Tokyo supported democratization and market reforms in Russia. He noted at the same time that the territorial dispute over the four South Kuril islands remains "the most important problem" in the Japanese-Russian relations.

However, the Japanese minister said that the political and economic transformations in Russia improve the chances for normalizing bilateral relations on the basis of legality and justice.

The two diplomats agreed that joint efforts of the international community are necessary to persuade North Korea to remain in the nuclear non-proliferation treaty . The ministers whose countries want to become permanent member-states of the UN Security Council also discussed structural reforms in the United Nations.

Report on First Round of Talks

LD0707154693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo July 7 TASS—Foreign ministers of the group of seven industrialized countries have called on Ukraine to ratify the START-1 treaty and join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, representatives of G-7 member-states told ITAR-TASS upon completion of the first round of talks between G-7 foreign ministers, which was held simultaneously with the G-7 annual summit which opened in Tokyo on Wednesday.

Foreign ministers paid much attention to problems pertaining to nuclear weapons and called to provide aid to Russia in ensuring environmental protection while the programme on the elimination of nuclear weapons is being implemented.

Participants in the meeting expressed deep concern about North Korea which is supposed to be secretly developing nuclear weapons and refusing to admit international inspections to its nuclear facilities. They expressed the hope that Pyongyang would cancel its previous decision on the withdrawal from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Foreign ministers of Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Canada, the United States, France and Japan have expressed the hope for the successful completion of Geneva talks on ensuring peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They expressed a unanimous opinion that the peaceful settlement should be based on the Vance-Owen plan.

According to a representative of the German delegation, the settlement should not be achieved at the expense of Bosnian Muslims. The ministers supported the idea of establishing security zones for Bosnian Muslims and said that humanitarian aid to Bosnia was needed in view of the approaching winter. The ministers called to continue U.N. sanctions against former Yugoslavia until Serbia begins to observe U.N. resolutions.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told journalists that strong statements were made during the meeting against Iran, Iraq and Libya. The U.S. side pointed out that Iran was accumulating weapons of mass destruction, exporting terrorism and violating human rights. The ministers came out in support of international sanctions against Iraq and putting pressure on Baghdad which defies resolutions of the U.N. Security council.

Participants in the meeting unanimously agreed that it is necessary to strengthen U.N. functions for ensuring and establishing peace and enhancing U.N. powers to avert conflicts.

However, during the first round of talks between foreign ministers the question of increasing the number of permanent members of the U.N. Security council, whose status is being claimed by Japan and Germany, was not raised.

G-7 To Gradually Lift Trade Restrictions

LD0707165093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS special correspondents]

[Text] [no dateline as received]—The "G-7" finance ministers meeting in Tokyo have voiced the opinion that it is necessary to introduce a free trade regime for industrial goods with Russia during the coming ten years, a representative of the British Government delegation told TASS on Wednesday.

In case an official decision is adopted on the issue a radical revision of the COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] activities is possible. The organisation was created in "Cold War" years to prevent shipments of high technologies to socialist countries.

TASS learned that the "G-7" meeting in Tokyo has given a preliminary approval to the draft economic declaration which will be made public on July 9. The document eases COCOM limitations over exports to Russia and welcomes Russian application to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The United States is most active in calling to lift limitations on trade with Moscow. It is going to adopt fast measures in the direction and call on its allies to follow suit, a representative of the U.S. delegation told reporters. Russia may get a most-favoured nation regime in trade with the USA and get rid of a majority of COCOM limitations.

The United States proposes to transform the COCOM into an organisation which will bar the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons. "COCOM as well as other instruments of the 'Cold War' has to change with time", the U.S. representative said. "Russia should not be an object of COCOM activities. In future it will evidently join global efforts aimed to cease the proliferation of ballistic missiles, chemical and conventional weapons", he added.

Commentary Welcomes Lifting Restrictions

LD0707160593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Announcer-read Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] The leaders of the seven leading industrial nations agreed in Tokyo to lift all restrictions on trade with Russia by the year 2003.

The agreement is called sensational and it really makes a major event in international economic relations. It means that the West finally decided to abandon another survival [as heard] of the Cold War.

Evidently the activity of the COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls], which for decades has monitored restrictions on trade with the

East, will be practically stopped. At a time when the Soviet Union and the communist threat exists no more, it is still holding on to its prohibitory list for the export of high technology products to Russia. Even after Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton reached agreement in Vancouver, various export restrictions continued operating. Perhaps these outdated rules influenced the U.S. position at the recent talks with Russia on Moscow's participation in tenders for the launch of EC satellites, which contained items made in the United States and listed as prohibited in COCOM files.

One can cite another example where mutually profitable deals between Russia and the United States or any other Western country knocked against COCOM regulations. [sentence as heard]

Now that a crucial decision was made, one can expect the American Congress to take speedier steps to abolish discriminatory laws in respect to Russia. As you may remember, the issue of repealing the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and nearly 60 other acts passed during the Cold War, was brought up by President Yeltsin at the Vancouver summit. President Clinton's proposals on that score appeared, however, to get stuck in the U.S. Congress. After the G-7 Tokyo agreement, the discriminatory trade acts look more outdated than ever before.

It's not a pure coincidence that these very days in Tokyo the G-7 finance ministers also coordinated the issue of access to markets and reduction in (rates), seen as a breakthrough at the long-standing talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT].

This testifies to the growing understanding of the fact that new approaches to the international trade are needed, which take into account the new realities emerged since the end of the Cold War. Concrete problems concerning the adjustment of equal and mutually advantageous economic relations with the West are expected to be discussed at the forthcoming meetings of President Boris Yeltsin and the G-7 leaders, due on Thursday and Friday.

Russia, a country with huge economic potential and market orientation, is beginning to enter the world economy.

Commentary on 'Economic Problems'

LD0707162593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Valentin Gorkayev commentary]

[Excerpts] Much is being expected from the meeting of the leaders of the world's seven most industrialized countries which opened in Tokyo today. That applies to both the participants of the summit and those who hope that the G-7 will help them solve their political and economic problems. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, it must be said, that so far the West continues to treat Russia as a communist country. Discrimination against Russia's commodities on the part of the European Community and the United States actually continues in the same old way.

Of course the country is now living through hard times, but considering its industrial and scientific potential, its rich resources, one can say safely that the development of Russia will have a direct bearing on the future development of the West.

Therefore the participation of Russia's President Boris Yeltsin in the G-7 summit—and it's the second time he's attending it—should not only continue on a regular basis, but should assume a more equal character.

The need to turn the G-7 into G-8 is becoming ever more evident. World economic and political problems should not only be solved without Russia, but that is hardly possible. [sentence as heard]

Poll Shows 76 Percent Welcome Visit

LD0707162893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS—According to the results of a poll conducted in Moscow by the Independent Sociological Organisation "Mnenie", 76 per cent of respondents welcome Russian president's visit to Japan to meet leaders of the G-7 countries.

Only eight per cent said they believe the visit is not necessary, while 16 per cent were undecided. Approximately 38 per cent of respondents have positively assessed relations between Japan and Russia, while 22 per cent have an opposite opinion on the matter. Each fifth respondent believes that the relations between the two sides will improve until the year 2000, while eight per cent of respondents say they do not believe in these prospects and 28 per cents said they do not expect any substantial changes in the relations between the two countries.

The majority of respondents (40 per cent) refrained from making any forecasts on this matter.

Yeltsin To Raise Kuril Island Issue

LD0807014193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0050 GMT 8 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talayev]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jul—At this meeting with G-7 leaders we expect to discuss a complex of economic and political problems in the framework of incorporating Russia into the world community, Russian Federation President Yeltsin stated before his departure for the Tokyo meeting of leaders of the seven most industrialized nations. According to Yeltsin, "the issue of Russia joining the G-7 is not on the agenda this time." He pointed out that "this is a lengthy process, and we have to prepare to it accordingly. Maybe next year this will be more feasible."

Speaking of the possibility of his official visit to Japan, Yeltsin emphasized that he would discuss this question during his meeting with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. "We will have a 30-minute conversation, and there will not be enough time to decide anything. That is why we will be preparing for an official visit," Yeltsin said. As for the timescale for this visit, he said that now not only the current political situation in Russia must be taken into account, but also that in Japan.

"Should the Kuril islands issue be resolved, everything would be corrected in an instant, but one can not settle such issues straight off," Yeltsin stated. Therefore, "we will be communicating to the leadership of Japan that while it would not be easy to resolve the islands issue in this time, let us develop a partnership in all other directions," he emphasized.

Arrives in Tokyo

LD0807055693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0516 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Telephone report by station correspondent Victor Levin in Tokyo on 8 Jul—live]

[Excerpt] [Levin] Fifteen minutes ago Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Tokyo. Yeltsin gave a brief statement at Haneda Airport, in which he expressed gratitude to Japan for it support and interest in the deep-going transformations in Russia. He said that Russia is prepared for an extensive and good-willed discussion of all—this word was stressed by Boris Nikolayevich—problems on the basis of a balanced approach and reciprocity. Yeltsin assured everyone that Japan will always find an honest and reliable partner in Russia. Boris Nikolayevich expressed the conviction that our future is one of partnership and cooperation.

In this manner the visit is under way. Yeltsin's itinerary in Tokyo is packed to the limit. Today, there will be a 30-minute meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. Although brief, I venture to say that it is more than enough time.

Parliamentary elections are taking place in Japan in ten days time, and Miyazawa's chances are assessed as very low, or simply as next to none. Japan has entered a period of stormy political shocks. It will be difficult to hold far ranging talks until the situation stabilizes.

[passage omitted]

Notes Importance of Japanese Ties

LD0807062693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0541 GMT 8 Jul 93

["Text" of statement issued by President Boris Yeltsin at Tokyo's Haneda Airport on 8 July]

[Text] Tokyo, 8 Jul—"Setting foot on the soil of our neighbor Japan, I am happy to address the people of Japan on behalf of Russia, to convey them our genuine affection and respect, and to wish them health, happiness and prosperity.

I am grateful to Japan for its support and interest in profound transformations that Russia is undergoing. We appreciate the fact that it was Tokyo which hosted representative meetings in support of Russian reforms, such as the international conference on assistance to "newly independent states" and April meeting of Russia Federation Foreign and Finance ministers with their G-7 counterparts.

I regret the fact that I failed to come to Japan last September, as it had been planned. I am grateful to the government and people of Japan for their understanding of the circumstances which then prevented my visit from taking place. However, it will definitely take place.

Relations with Japan are one of the most important priorities in Russian foreign policy. They are of fundamental importance not only for both our peoples, but also for peace and prosperity in the Asian-Pacific region and in the world as a whole.

Russia is prepared for the extensive and amicable discussion of all the problems of interest to both sides. I am convinced that we can clear away the "obstructions of the past" and ultimately achieve a peaceful settlement of our relations. This must be done on the basis of the principles of legality and fairness. And then we shall definitely achieve a balanced development of the entire complex of Russian-Japanese ties to a worthy level.

I am sure that Japan will always find an honest and consistent partner in the new Russia.

The future of the peoples of Russia and Japan lies in good-neighborliness, cooperation and friendship. I wish the Japanese people, each Japanese family, health, success, and prosperity."

Statement Recieved Positively

LD0807103393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0930 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The Japanese Foreign Ministry is assessing as positive the approach to bilateral relations demonstrated by Russian President Yeltsin and indicated by his statement upon his arrival in Tokyo airport today. We regard it as a good signal aimed at developing relations between the two countries, an employee of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, who requested his name be withheld in the press, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

G-7 Declaration Supports Yeltsin's Reforms

LD0807082493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0713 GMT 8 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Tokyo July 8 TASS—The group of seven industrialised nations pledged support to reforms of President Boris Yeltsin.

A declaration signed by foreign ministers of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Japan calls on the Russian diplomacy to follow the principles of lawfulness and justice and continue to play a constructive and responsible role in international politics.

Major topics of the declaration include averting and extinguishing regional conflicts, an increased role of the United Nations, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and denounciation of terrorism.

EC Official Supports Lifting Restrictions

LD0807084193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0806 GMT 8 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Tokyo July 8 TASS—Leon Brittan, vice president of the Commission of the European Communities, said that further all-round aid to Russia for an earlier transfer to the market economy suits the fundamental interests of the European Community and countries of the world. He said this on Thursday at a briefing in Tokyo where the summit of leading industrial nations continues.

Brittan believes that negotiations with Moscow to conclude an agreement on partnership and cooperation are among the main directions of the EC economic policy regarding Russia. The signing of such an agreement will make possible Russia's economic ties with Western Europe on a basis of principles of free trade. The Commission of the European Communities is prepared to begin working out terms for shaping in future a zone of free trade between the European Community and Russia. The European Community supports the proposals to lift Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] restrictions on trade with Russia, Brittan said in answer to a question from ITAR-TASS.

The vice president of the commission believes that supporting the privatisation process and setting up medium and small enterprises is indispensible to ensuring a transfer to the market economy in Russia. For this purpose industrialised countries of Western Europe express the readiness to invite budding Russian business people to their countries to study.

Another important aspect of assistance to Russia is aid in safe operation of nuclear reactors, Brittan said. The basis principles of this work were laid out in decisions of the 1992 Munich meeting of leaders of the Group of Seven. The Commission of the European Communities intends to supply altogether 515 million dollars from 1991 to 1994 to modernise nuclear power stations in former Soviet republics, including technical aid and the supply of the necessary equipment.

Japan Says Stand on Kurils Unchanged

LD0807101093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0827 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo July 8 TASS—The absence of the direct mention of the territorial problem in Russian-Japanese relations in the political declaration, adopted by the G-7 leaders today, does not mean that the stands of Japan and other G-7 member states on the problem of the South Kuril islands has changed. The reason for it is that the political declaration of the last year's Munich summit, which includes a provision on the need for a complete normalisation of Russian-Japanese relations on the basis of the settlement of the problem of the South Kuril islands, remains in force. This explanation was given at a briefing today by Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto. The briefing was devoted to the adoption of one of the two main documents by the Tokyo summit.

The Japanese foreign minister said the decision not to include in the Tokyo declaration the appeal to Russia to work for the normalisation of relations with Japan on the basis of the settlement of the territorial problem reflects the opinion of the G-7 countries that their previous statements on the problem remain in force, and so there is no need for repeating them. According to Kabun Muto, mutual understanding on that issue was reached during consultations of the G-7 countries prior to the Tokyo summit.

Yeltsin To Visit Japan Sep, Oct This Year

LD0807115393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1132 GMT 8 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Tokyo, 8 July—President Boris Yeltsin of Russia will be making an official visit to Japan in September-October this year.

Khasbulatov Meets With U.S. Senators

LD0707173893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1445 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Report on Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov's meeting with a group of U.S. senators on 5 July, place not given; program is introduced by unidentified announcer; unidentified U.S. senators speak in English with superimposed Russian translation; from the "Parliamentary Hour" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] On 5 July, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov received a group of U.S. senators, headed by Democrat senator from Vermont, Patrick Leahy. A wide circle of problems was touched upon during the two-hour conversation.

[Khasbulatov] Conditions are unusually favorable here for statesmen, the president, the government, and parliament to implement very profound transformations and reforms. Of course we need an agreed course, a course and policy of common public agreement, a policy that will correspond to the interests of the majority of people so that we, as I have already said today, reach agreement in society on a declaration on economic reforms. When we carry out major measures, we will try to be guided by the opinion of public and political movements, trades unions, and other broad representatives, and, of course, it will be easier for all of us to implement reforms.

The situation in the economy continues to be fairly difficult. We can say frankly that it was not particularly pleasant for us while we were unable to halt the fall in production. Agricultural production is decreasing as well. We have difficult relations on these issues with the former Soviet Union republics, even within the Commonwealth. These problems, in my view, are the most serious. They directly concern the man in the street and they worry us more than, say, the problem of adopting a new constitution.

[Senator] How soon will you stop subsidies to the main goods producers and for fuels? For it is precisely this that prevents Russia from participating in some international agreements on equal terms.

[Khasbulatov] I would not reproach the government for failing to lift all restrictions on energy price increases. I would not reproach the government for that. You know, the price for various types of goods is rising fast, that could result in serious social conflicts. So the government, by and large, holds a restrained position on this, and one must understand that. The cost of transporting coal—you know, Kemerovo is very far away, in Siberia, closer to the Far East, in fact—the cost of transporting this coal on the railways has gone up to such a degree that there is just nowhere to deliver the coal to. It is not profitable to transport it; so the coal piles up. In all the towns along the railway, the storage points are full. There is nowhere to put the coal. It is a real problem, you see. How can it be solved?

[Senator] We know that in Tokyo in the near future the issue of aid to Russia is going to be discussed. What will your reaction be if aid is not earmarked on the scale that you are counting on?

[Khasbulatov] We need investment in industry and agriculture, of course. [passage indistinct] Transport, communications, road building, housing. We need direct investment of capital here. Unfortunately, I have to be frank—I realize that no government can force its corporations to make investments. Every firm acts in line with their ideas of profits and income and the potential of any other country. We realize that in Russia we jointly need to create conditions for attracting, for instance, U.S. and Western European capital, capital from other countries. Of course a very substantial legislative base is needed to ensure that Western companies can feel free and act freely; that goes without saying. They need to be able to transfer their profits and put in new investments; reinvest. They must not be stifled by taxes. The tax system needs to be changed; taxes need to be cut.

For over two months I have been trying to make the government help me pass tax reduction through the parliament. The thing is that the government lobby in our parliament will not allow even me, chairman of the parliament, to implement this idea. I proposed that foreign entrepreneurs who invest their money in industry and agriculture, commodity producers, be exempt for two years. Last year alone, Germany invested about DM [German mark] 100 billion in five eastern countries, and this year the figure is expected to exceed DM 150 billion. Just think, even if Tokyo allocates us $20-30 billion, this will be a large enough sum, but this is not a decisive factor in Russia's economic development. You will give us help but over the same year, say, $20 billion will move from our country to the West as produced goods, you see. Why? Because conditions for the normal operation of investment capitals are absent.

[Senator] What can you say about the president's Constitutional Conference and the draft that was developed?

[Khasbulatov] My attitude to this event was and remains sharply negative. I warned that the Constitutional conference would not yield any positive results, on the contrary, it would expose contradictions in the regions. Here are the results: To-date, the Vologda republic and Urals republic have already been proclaimed, the Far East is getting ready for the same. This is a direct consequence of the president's initiative on the Constitutional Conference. I spoke and warned about this, and not only me, the parliament did also. We said that such strong-arm methods should not be used. There is a constitutional mechanism for adopting laws and the constitution, one should not act in such a rough way, like a bull in a china shop. Our state has been weakened, and in our conditions one should act very cautiously, taking into account the country and its regions. Unfortunately, our words went unheeded and here is the result.

The task of keeping the Russian state intact is a most urgent one now, and if economic failures are to continue, the problem will become increasingly difficult.

[Senator] U.S. businessmen share your concern about the need to set up a new legislative base. Taking the second question further, would you prefer that we make no decisions on economic aid?

[Khasbulatov] No, of course not. Why are you asking such a question? I would prefer for us to be offered as much aid as possible. In fact it will be better still if we did not have to give everything back.

[Announcer] The level of confidence among our businessmen depends on how assured they are that there has been political reform, and many link this with constitutional reform. The emergence of a new constitution will convince potential investors.

[Khasbulatov] I did not at all want to make, let us say, transformations required exclusively by foreign entrepreneurs in our country. Our country belongs to us. We will make the changes that our people require, not the foreign entrepreneur, whether he is nice or not. We have our own traditions, our own way of thinking, as they say, our own cultural values, our own history. Maybe Yeltsin wants to replace all this, but I personally do not.

But this is a broad issue, to return to the heart of the matter, the current constitution fully incorporates human rights as they are announced in the Declaration, in the Human Rights Charter, the right to private property, including, incidentally, to land. It incorporates the division of power—we have a Constitutional Court, the institute of president, a sitting parliament—powers independent of each other.

The questions relating to the party, the Communist Party and system, to any other party, incidentally, have been removed altogether. But of course we understand that we should still improve the constitution. That is why the Constitutional Commission is working all the time, headed, incidentally, by the president. It was as chairman of the Constitutional Commission that Yeltsin presented his draft constitution at the congress a year ago.

This Constitutional Commission is working. It is still being perfected, but it is working according to plan, and is taking into account all the remarks alike from citizens, jurists, experts, the regions, and so on. So there was no need to suddenly convene any kind of Constitutional Assembly of who knows whom and what persons, completely uninvested with people's confidence, not elected by anyone, and try in this unintelligible kind of way to replace the Constitutional Commission elected by the Congress of [Peoples] Deputies legitimately, legally, and constitutionally.

It is this kind of action that arouses disquiet both among our entrepreneurs and foreign ones. Why? Because they destabilize our domestic situation.

[Announcer] Could we imagine, Ruslan Khasbulatov asked, your president announcing one day that...

[Khasbulatov] ...Our U.S. Constitution adopted 200 years ago is old, it has long been obsolete and anyhow congress, what kind of congress is it? I want to give the American people a new constitution and at the same time disband congress, I shall convene a Constitutional Conference and so on. It will be interesting to put oneself in their place. What would they do?

[Senator] The U.S. president would not do that.

[Announcer] A little was spoken about the state of the talks between Ukraine and Russia on the Black Sea Fleet and securing control of atomic weapons.

[Khasbulatov] Of course, here we have long had opportunities to resolve these questions concerning the fate of the Black Sea Fleet, in particular taking into account the fact that Sevastopol is a Russian city and a Russian naval fortress. It could have been resolved taking into account what was of course the abnormal reaction of Ukraine, say, by means of a long-term lease for 99 years for instance. Anyhow the Ukrainian side was practically ready for this kind of approach on the part of the Russian authorities. Unfortunately on our side these kinds of opportunity were not utilized. I generally regard the weakening of Russia as a phenomenon that threatens world security.

Currently the political struggle taking place here makes Russia weaker. It makes it possible for, say, radioactive materials of one type or another to leak out from within our territory, or for poisonous substances of one kind or another to make their way out without any controls and so on and so forth. But, after all, this does not just pose a threat to Russia, but also to the world civilization. That is why it would, of course, be desirable for you to regard these problems and what is taking place in our country from this point of view, too. Who is really to blame for the political tension in Russia? Where is the source of this political tension? It is, all too often, an artificial one. Whose benefit is all this? It seems to me that to derive benefits here is a very complex matter, irrespective of who is involved.

The Chernobyl disaster alone—how much damage it has wrought! How many Chernobyls can be engendered on Russian Federation territory by the potential weakening of Russia, the loss of control on the part of the federal authorities. This is unimaginable. These thoughts make for sleepless nights for me. Unfortunately it looks like our executive authority, including the highest executive authority, devotes little attention to it and I must be blunt about it.

[Announcer] Ruslan Khasbulatov advocated the development and strengthening of the dynamic nature of Russian-U.S. relations. It is his view that emphasis in our economic cooperation should be placed not so much on the extension of credits, although these, too, are important for the speediest possible stabilization of the economic situation, as on the creation of propitious conditions for trade and exchange of state-of-the-art technological developments.

[Khasbulatov] In the course of this brief conversation with you I would like you to understand what is really taking place in Russia, and what the Russian Parliament is really like, and what it is really busying itself with. I would like to show you for real that the image of the Russian Parliament as being reactionary, moving toward communism, and fighting against the allegedly progressive president has no basis at all; it is a perfectly mendacious and artificial picture someone finds advantageous.

We will solve our problems. Sooner or later, we will solve them unambiguously with the help of worldwide cooperation, or without any help; we will solve our problems. Well, of course, if together we adopt an understanding attitude toward one another, there is the possibility of shortening the time taken to solve our problems, and you know yourselves that we are able to develop the enormous aid of civilization to developing countries besides solving other problems in other countries.

So I propose that we should strengthen cooperation between the U.S. Congress and our parliament. I am prepared to invite parliamentary delegations as specialists so that they can form a better idea of various aspects of our activities, as well as to listen to you and your advice. In general, I will be prepared to propose to you that we should strengthen cooperation through the channels of the U.S. Congress and our parliament

Kozyrev Clarifies Stand on U.S. Strike on Iraq

LD0707194593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By correspondent Gennadiy Solomatin, including recorded comments made by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Solomatin] The recent U.S. strike against Baghdad has provoked varied reactions both in Russia and the CIS. The opposition blasted the Russian Foreign Ministry for being too hasty in supporting the U.S. action. In connection with this, before leaving for Tokyo, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev thought it necessary to clarify the situation. He said that the Russian Foreign Ministry had not given its immediate support to the U.S., but rather had stated its understanding for the U.S. reasons. The situation, however, is more complicated than would seem at first glance.

[Kozyrev] There is a different problem. Iraq has again refused to comply with the UN Security Council's requests, stated already many times, to inspect Iraq's military programs. It is a problem of Russian state and national interests. We cannot agree to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its missile-type delivery vehicles along the perimeter of Russia and CIS southern borders.

[Solomatin] Once again Iraq is putting itself in the firing line, Andrey Kozyrev added with regret, and the Russian Foreign Ministry once again asks or warns the Iraqi leadership not to aggravate matters to such a point that military force will have to be used by the anti-Iraqi coalition of which Russia is a member.

U.S. Export-Import Bank Grants $2 Billion Credit

LD0707132293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington July 7 TASS—An agreement on granting to Russia a credit of two billion dollars for the development of the oil and gas industry was signed here on Tuesday by Kenneth Brody, chairman of the board of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. The agreement had earlier been signed in Moscow by Russian Minister of Fuel and Power Yuriy Shafranik, First Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Vavilov and Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank of Russia Dmitriy Tulin.

Under the agreement, the Export-Import Bank will begin granting credits in September 1993 for the purchase by Russian state and privately-owned structures of U.S. equipment for oil and gas extraction and processing. Settlement should be completed within seven years. Credits will be given either in the form of guarantees of the U.S. Government to private financial institutions or in the form of direct loans by the Export-Import Bank. The preliminary agreement has already been reached on the granting of the first such loan of 500 million dollars.

Brody said the agreement should largely contribute to the development of American-Russian partnership. The agreement is really advantageous for both countries. Its implementation will supply Russia with contemporary equipment to increase oil and gas extraction and export. This will result in additional receipts of foreign currency that Russia needs so much to make its economy more viable. For the United States, the agreement offers an opportunity to expand the market for U.S. products and create 40 thousand jobs in the country.

'Breakdown' of Abkhaz-Georgian Talks Noted

LD0307121493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1015 GMT 3 Jul 93

[BY ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Jul— A plenipotentiary delegation of the Republic of Georgia issued a statement today in connection with the breakdown of the trilateral negotiations on a cease fire in Abkhazia. The document notes that on 2 July another attempt to continue the negotiations between the warring sides participating in the conflict on the territory of Abkhazia was undertaken with Russia acting as a mediator. However, the negotiations that just opened were broken off. The Gudauta side should be accused of this.

"The delegation of the Republic of Georgia did everything possible to achieve a cease fire throughout the territory of Abkhazia, and as at the previous meeting it was ready to accept any proposals from the Gudauta side that would correspond with the aims of the negotiations. But once again the representatives of the Gudauta side, without any serious arguments, refused to sign a jointly-prepared agreement, the document underlines.

The delegation of the Republic of Georgia declares that the Gudauta side is fully responsible for the breakdown of the negotiations, for the further escalation of military actions, and for killing people, which is impossible to excuse. The delegation of the Republic of Georgia expects from Russia, which acts as a mediator in the negotiations, to give a principle estimation of the actions of the Gudauta leadership and to take concrete measures in order to avoid the escalation of the military actions.

The delegation of the Republic of Georgia appeals to the world community, to the UN secretary general and to the CSCE to use all possible peaceful measures to settle the armed conflict in Abkhazia in the near future.

Georgian Official Reviews Negotiations

LD0507145693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Esteemed radio listeners, as you know, a Georgian delegation is working in Moscow to prepare a future major agreement between Georgia and Russia. Yesterday we got in touch with [Georgian Deputy Prime Minister] Aleksandre Kavsadze. Here is what he said.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Kavsadze, what is the response there to the incessant bombing of Sukhumi and how are negotiatons proceeding?

[Kavsadze] First of all I cannot help telling you how I feel. [passage omitted] You know that we were holding negotiatons from 15 to 22 June. We did everything to have the cease-fire agreement signed but it did not happen. Today I can see well why it failed, because the leaders of the Gudauta group did not want to limit themselves in any way by signing this document as they wanted to be free in their actions; they were holding negotiations to slacken our attention; it did not happen and we had foreseen all this. We had to be ready and we were expecting this departure. We got down to negotiations the day before yesterday. After Shevardnadze's departure to Sukhumi there was serious danger to himself and to Sukhumi as well. [passage omitted]

This is how things stand at the moment: Yesterday morning we spoke with Boris Pastukhov, Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy for Abkhaz issues, he left for Gudauta and then visited Sukhumi. Late yesterday evening we met and this morning we had a specific talk. He informed us about what they talked about and we demanded that Russia express its stance. Negotiations will, of course, continue. We are always ready for negotiations with a state which declares that it wants to see the conflict resolved and that its armed forces were in place.

We had such a conversation. One cannot monitor the air space and waters and borders and wash one's hands like Pilate and do nothing. [passage omitted] If there are any measures to be taken considering international norms, they should also be taken, practical steps should be taken.

These were the issues we agreed on. We shall have another meeting but probably it will not be enough. We might need to carry out other organizational actions. I think that an appeal of the north Caucasian peoples will be prepared, there will be exchanges and meetings with the representatives of the Caucasus and the representatives of the republics. In an immediate future we shall use international organizations, we shall have a meeting with the representatives of the G-7 countries this evening and probably we shall put to them specific demands. We shall give them specific suggestions before the G-7 meeting in Japan. We shall also meet the UN Ambassador and I think that these serious steps will be taken to create an atmosphere in the world whereby the world public can see what is going on in Georgia at the moment and what steps the Georgian leadership is taking to establish peace on Abkhaz territory.

I would also like to say that certain forces in Georgia are making this situation tense. I have seen many instances of that here. They are working very hard to exacerbate the situation even more in Georgia and they are even carrying out preparatory work to hamper Georgia's unity and the unification of Georgia's armed forces.

[Correspondent] Mr. Kavsadze, what forces are they?

[Kavsadze] I am sorry to reiterate this but my former colleagues are being active, the members of the former Supreme Council are taking certain steps and probably the Georgian public should pay a great deal of attention to this so that society does not get split in two again and does not confront each other. [end recording]

Georgia Asks Russia To Stop 'Interference'

LD0607181493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Alexsandr Kavsadze, the Georgian head of state's special envoy and chairman of Georgia's committee on human rights and interethnic relations, today sent letters to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Shakhray, Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev, Russian Security Minister Barannikov, and Russian Procurator General Stepankov. The letters say:

On 3 July this year, a decree was issued by the commander in chief of the armed forces of the so-called Confederation of the Caucasian People, whose units have long been stationed on Georgian territory in Gudauta in defiance of all norms of international law.

According to this decree, the total mobilization of reservists was declared in the north Caucasian republics, which are part of the Russian Federation, with the aim of using them in the armed conflict in Georgian territory.

I am compelled to draw your attention once more to the fact that such actions by the confederates is nothing but rude interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. Moreover, it constitutes undisguised aggression against Georgia.

As a result of the activities of these armed units, people are dying every day, inhabited localities are being ravaged, the ancient and unique city of Sukhumi has actually been wiped off the face of the earth, and the escalation of armed actions in Abkhazia continues.

I appeal to you to take all measures to stop the illegal infiltration of Russian citizens representing this organization, and to stop the transportation of military equipment to the conflict zone, because a general Caucasian war is becoming a reality. I hope that efforts taken by the Russian authorities will bring to an end the destructive activities resulting in numerous casualties.

[Signed] Yours sincerely, Kavsadze

Russia Threatens Sanctions

PM0707075793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Jul 93 p 1

[Alan Kasayev report: "Moscow's Peace Plan"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Government has drawn up its third plan for a peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz war. The details are not being reported, but it is known to envisage a withdrawal of Georgian troops apart from local territorial formations subordinate to the Sukhumi authorities, and a withdrawal of heavy equipment from Abkhaz territory. Volunteers from the North Caucasus and other parts of Russia fighting on the Abkhaz side are to withdraw at the same time. Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has stated that there is no a chance of really determining which of the sides is interested in peace. Whichever party to the conflict violates the peace plan will find that Russia takes severe economic sanctions against it, the minister said, speaking on the "Itogi" TV program.

Commenting on the statement at this ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent's request, Alexsandr Kavsadze, the Georgian ambassador in Moscow, said: "These sanctions could only be used against the Gudauta side, which does not want to sign the truce agreements that have already been prepared. Georgia has already been deprived of any aid from Russia in accordance with two decrees from the Russian parliament." In turn, Igor Akhba, the Abkhaz Government's representative in Moscow, stressed: "Sanctions should be imposed on those who violate previously signed documents—that is, the Georgian Government." Neither diplomat fleshed out the sanctions question.

But just what then did the leader of the Russian foreign policy department have in mind? Georgia receives natural gas, electricity, and food from Russia by way of a loan and at a rate that has not yet been specified. But it is hardly possible to "switch off" the Stavropol-Tbilisi gas pipeline—that would mean also depriving Armenia, which has a corresponding treaty with Russia within the CIS, of energy sources. Stopping food shipments would mean leaving Russian-speaking inhabitants of Georgia to go hungry too. According to official figures, Abkhazia buys from Russia only food, a considerable proportion of which goes to Russian military units.

Thus, it is as yet hard to say how the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry intends to use economic levers in its peace policy. Incidentally, it is likely that a corresponding action program does exist, but will not be announced until such time as Tbilisi and Gudauta officially announce their attitude to Moscow's peace initiatives.

The Abkhaz side's scheme is obvious—to leave Moscow and international organizations facing a fait accompli, having liberated its capital of Sukhumi by force of arms, and only then signing an agreement. The Georgian side is striving, once again with the use of weapons, to close the "second front" in Ochamchirskiy Rayon and to draw a demarcation line along the Gumista River.

The sides' strategic aims are unchanged. Tbilisi will be continuing, for as long as possible, the tactic of strong-arm and other pressure, despite the republic's dire economic position. Abandoning this position of strength would lead to the political collapse of the current Georgian leadership, which would not suit any of the external forces involved in the conflict. The Georgian parliament's agreement to give E. Shevardnadze emergency powers was brought about by a desire to preserve his current image in the foreign arena—an image that recently brought the Georgian leader the prize named for the great humanist Immanuel Kant. The leadership of the Republic of Abkhazia, headed by Vladislav Ardzinba, will probably insist on a complete Georgian troop withdrawal from the republic's territory.

The new recruitment of volunteers to help Gudauta announced in Nalchik by Yusup Soslambekov, head of the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples parliament, has not yet led to any extra reinforcements being moved across the mountains. But in a very short period of time the number of North Caucasians in Abkhazia could easily increase several times over from the current figure of 1,500-2,000. At the same time, representatives of the South Ossetian leadership in Moscow have stated that the helicopter downed over internal regions of Georgia did not take off from South Ossetia and was not carrying Ossetian volunteers, even though it has been confirmed that South Ossetia is continuing to give the Abkhaz people all-around humanitarian assistance.

Abkhazia Wants Cease-Fire Accord

LD0707211393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Andrey Gergenia, a special envoy of the chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Council at the trilateral talks on cease-fire in Abkhazia, said that the Abkhazian side intends to sign the agreement on cease-fire prepared during talks between special envoys of the Abkhazian and Georgian leadership, with Russia's mediation.

He informed journalists that the Abkhazian side only requests that the document be signed by the heads of the two republics. This will make the agreement effective and will introduce an aspect of higher responsibility, thus securing the agreement from failure.

Participants in the news conference, who included members of the parliament and representatives of the Abkhazian leadership, considered this agreement as provisional and pointed out that it stipulates a halt to military activities and the withdrawal of North Caucasian and Georgian troops from Abkhazia.

Answering questions of an ITAR-TASS correspondent about the cease-fire mechanism and control over the implementation of the agreement, Andrey Gergenia emphasized that this question has been worked out and its presence in the document makes the new agreement different from previous documents.

At the same time, Zurab Achba, an Abkhazian representative and a deputy of the Abkhazian Supreme Council, expressed doubts about the guarantees of the Georgian leadership that Abkhazia will be granted broad autonomy. They consider the issue of Abkhazia's status as a topic of the next talks. It must be emphasized again that Russian servicemen do not participate in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. Only volunteers are fighting on the Abkhazian side.

Talks between Abkhazia, Georgia, and Russia will continue tomorrow.

Withdrawal 'Stumbling Block' at Moldova Talks

PM0707144493 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Jul 93 First Edition p 7

[Lyudmila Feliksova report from Chisinau: "Not To Trip Up"]

[Text] The latest, the sixth round of Russian-Moldovan talks on the 14th Army has ended in Chisinau. The next will be in Moscow in fall. Legal questions connected with the Russian Army's status on foreign territory were discussed. There is an accord that Moldova will take part in the construction of service, social, and consumer facilities for servicemen on Russian territory out of the funds obtained from the sale of equipment which the Russian side will leave to it.

But the main stumbling block is the schedule for withdrawal. It has not been determined. The Russian delegation refers to a recent communique signed by B. Yeltsin and M. Snegur, in which the schedule for withdrawal is made dependent on the settlement of the political conflict and the clarification of the status of the Dniester region. At the same time the talks process between Moldova and the Dniester region has reached an impasse. As far as its status is concerned, after the Moldovan parliament demonstrated its clear unwillingness and inability to resolve the "easier" Gagauz question, it seems highly dubious that it will succeed in unraveling the complex Dniester knot. B. Yeltsin's remarks on the possibility of setting up Russian military bases on the territories of republics of the former Union also poured fuel on the flames at the talks on the fate of the 14th Army. The Moldovan side immediately saw these remarks as a threat, and began to insist on the Russian Army's immediate departure. In a recent interview M. Snegur said that he would like it to be withdrawn as quickly as possible and unconditionally. Adding, however, that patience must be shown, so as not to trip up due to too much haste.

Russian special envoy V. Kitayev said, summing up the results of the Russian-Moldovan talks, that neither side has an interest in dragging out the process.

Foreign Ministry Official on Armenia, Azerbaijan

NC0707183393 Baku TURAN in English 1419 GMT 7 Jul 93

["Russia Condemns any Actions, That Dont Lead to Peace"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku, July 7 (TURAN)—As Moscow correspondent of TURAN agency reports, the head of the Department of Information and Press of the Russian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] Sergey Yastrzhembskiy noted at yesterdays briefing, that unauthentic information about the events at the hot spots prevent the efforts of the international organizations on regulating conflicts.

To S. Yastrzhembskiy words, the recent report of mass media about the seizure of the town Agdam by Armenian military forces were spreaded by persons, concerned in presenting one of the warring parties as an aggressor. Just as the result of spreading this information, unfortunately, the visit of the chairman of CSCE Minsk group Mario Rafaelli to the region hasnt took place, S. Yastrzhembskiy said.

In the talk with TURAN correspondent S. Yastrzhembskiy said, that it wasnt the right time to search the guilty or the aggressor in the conflict. It is necessary to search the way out of the crisis by joint efforts now, he said. Together with this, S. Yastrzhembskiy pointed out that, Russian Government condemns any actions, that don't promote reaching peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Polish Defense Minister on Military Cooperation

LD0607210793 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 2000 GMT 6 Jul 93

[Text] Polish Defense Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz arrived in Moscow tonight on a three-day working visit. He leads a delegation from the Polish Defense Ministry. The main goal of the visit, paid at the invitation of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, is to sign an agreement on Polish-Russian military cooperation. Poland had already signed similar agreements with all former Soviet republics.

Grachev, Onyszkiewicz Comment on Talks

LD0707140093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Jul—The withdrawal of Russian troops from Poland is proceeding smoothly and according to schedule and will be completed this year, Russian and Polish Defense Ministers Pavel Grachev and Janusz Onyszkiewicz said. The latter is here on an official visit. "Thanks to the efforts of the military leadership, we have succeeded in coordinating all the issues that have been arising in this connection," Army General Pavel Grachev said. The sides stressed that with the departure of the Russuan troops from Poland, contacts between the military departments will continue. In fact, the agreement on bilateral military cooperation that was signed here today will create good preconditions for a new stage in their development.

"We have been neighbors with Russia for many centuries, and we would like to develop good relations, the foundation of which lies in the interstate treaty concluded last year. On the basis of this document's philosophy, we would also like to develop military contacts", Janusz Onyszkiewicz said. He assured Pavel Grachev that irrespective of the outcome of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Poland, "the government will pursue the same policy of good relations with Russia."

Commenting on the content of the agreement signed today, the head of the Russian military department noted that it marks out fundamentally important areas of bilateral cooperation in the military-technical, purely military, and military-political spheres. We are restoring what has been lost over the transitional period, he stated.

During the meeting, the ministers also discussed ensuring security and peace in the Baltic region. "We have reached the view that in the long term there is clearly a need for the leaders of the military departments of states bordering the Baltic Sea to get together," said Pavel Grachev. At the same time, he stressed that at present, Russia obviously cannot hold such a meeting with all the states of the region. He explained that this was primarily linked "with the absence of a solution to political issues" in relations with Estonia and Latvia.

Further on Military Accord

LD0707191393 Warsaw PAP in English 1850 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow, July 7—Polish Defence Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz, currently on an official visit to Russia, and his Russian counterpart Pavel Grachev signed on Wednesday an agreement on cooperation between the two countries. Poland has already signed similar agreements with all her Eastern neighbours.

The accord signed for five years provides for Polish-Russian military and technical cooperation, exchange of specialists, training officers and exchange of information on air control and on extraordinary situations that may endanger the security of the other country.

The priority task of the agreement is to ensure security and peace in the region of the Baltic Sea, the Russian defence minister said after signing the treaty.

Poland, which initiated the concept of Baltic regional security, also proposed to hold a meeting of defence ministers of all Baltic states. Grachev supported the idea but said that he does not think there is a possibility for representatives of all those countries to meet at the moment due to Russia's current problems with Latvia and Estonia.

During his meeting with Onyszkiewicz, Grachev also said that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Poland will be completed this year according to the schedule. He was also satisfied that the withdrawal is taking place without major problems and incidents.

When asked whether Poland is considering buying new military technologies from Russia, the Polish defence minister answered that at the moment all financial resources earmarked for that purpose are invested in the Polish armaments industry. At present, 80 per cent of Polish weaponry has been made in Russia.

Onyszkiewicz, who started his visit on Tuesday evening met later on Wednesday with Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin and Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin.

On Thursday the minister is scheduled to tour the Academy of the General Staff and one of military units of the Moscow Military District.

Chinese Border Guards Fire On Merchant Vessel

LD0807051493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0435 GMT 8 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniya Lents]

[Text] Vladivostok, 8 Jul—Pirate attacks on Russian vessels continue. Yesterday, in the East China Sea, a Chinese border vessel shot at and attacked the Russian merchant vessel Valeriy Volkov of the Far Eastern Shipping Line.

The Volkov was carrying metal from Vladivostok to the Chinese port of Tianjin. While sailing though the Korean economic zone, it was attacked by a fast Chinese border vessel. The attackers were not flying their country's flag. Nonetheless, they opened up with fierce fire onto the deck of the Volkov. Luckily, there were no casualties.

In order to avoid complications, the crew of the Volkov allowed the attackers to board their vessel and carry out a search. After the Chinese convinced themselves that there was nothing worthy of attention on board, they left the vessel.

All these actions took place in a form offensive and humiliating to human dignity. During the attack one of the Chinese crew members made a video film for his own pleasure, as he explained to our sailors.

The Valeriy Volkov arrived safely in Tianjin today. The Russian crew must now face a return journey. The reaction of the Far Eastern Shipping Line to this incident is still not known. One can only affirm unambiguously that for the Russians, the voyage home may not be a safe one.

Pacific Fleet To Guard Merchant Shipping

LD0807105693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0854 GMT 8 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaisky]

[Text] Moscow July 8 TASS—Increased attacks on Russian merchant ships in the East China Sea forced the command of the Pacific Fleet to order its warships to ensure safety of navigation in the area.

TASS learned from sources in the Russian Navy that all warships and logistic support vessels were ordred to ensure the security of Russian merchant and fishing vessels in the East China Sea and that several warships are to urgently leave their bases for the area.

The big submarine chaser "Petropavlovsk", the "Borodino" training ship and several logistic support vessels have already monitored the situation in the sea.

The latest attack of Chinese border guards on a Russian vessel in the sea was reported on Wednesday. The "Valeriy Volkov" freighter bound for a Chinese port with a load of metal came under fire from a Chinese coast guard boat, had to stop and was searched.

Observers fear that the order of the fleet command will hardly secure complete safety of the merchant shipping. A special governmental decision and considerable finances are necessary for that.

Volskiy on PRC Visit, Impressed by Shenzhen

LD0507223693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1517 GMT 5 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Beijing, 5 Jul—The Union of Russian Industrialists and Entrepreneurs is ready to promote trade and economic activity in the Russian market on the part of the Chinese Association for Promoting Industrial Investment, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told in an interview by Union Chairman Arkadiy Volkskiy while in the PRC. At the same time he voiced the hope of reciprocal steps by that association, which is the most influential in PRC business circles.

The relevant agreement will soon be signed in Moscow, A. Volskiy announced. He said that in the Russian capital there will soon be meetings on questions of conversion and transportation, and in Beijing on light industry and food products.

During his stay in the PRC the chairman of the Union of Russian Industrialists and Entrepreneurs was received by Jiang Zemin, president of the PRC and general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, met heads of industry, and also visited the special economic zone of Shenzhen and the city of Changchun.

"What struck me most of all was the fact that the central government has granted Shenzhen the right to pass its own laws or decisions on economic issues. This is the most important thing in the special zone. There, in contrast to other Chinese cities, I did not notice the influence of politics on the economy. People living in the city are fairly free and are now well established." This was how A. Volskiy outlined life in this "enclave of capitalism," as Shenzhen is known. The Chinese have defined the stage-by-stage nature of the transition to the market. First they carried out the reform of agriculture and fed the people. Then, having obtained the raw material for light industry, they embarked on the reform of this sector and only in the final stage did they liberalize prices. State control of the market is of course absurd. This is not what China is engaged in, it is effecting state control of the transition to the market.

"We should make friends with this country, respect its people and find ways to avoid us being sundered by outrageous conflicts like those which have occurred of late on the Amur and on the high seas," A. Volskiy noted in conclusion, referring to the Chinese poachers operating on the Amur river and the recent incident of the Russian trawler Soyuz-4 seized by the PRC coastguard.

Russian Citizens Beaten in DPRK

LD0507152193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0936 GMT 5 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Nadashkevich]

[Text] Pyongyang, 5 Jul—Several Russian citizens in the DPRK were attacked by the local population on Sunday in the port of Chinnampo, 50 km west of Pyongyang. The victims were Sergey Bulekov, a representative of the Gorkiy "GAZ" joint stock company; Nadezhda Golovko, the wife of a representative of the company "Legpromeksport;" and her 12-year old son. The doctor for the Russian trade mission in the DPRK recorded numerous bruises and scratches on all of them.

The victims told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today that they had gone to the beach at Chinnampo, having obtained permission from the North Korean authorities. During the trip they decided to take a look with a video camera at the local market, where they were surrounded by a large crowd of North Koreans. "They threw stones and sticks at us and pushed us and beat us. They snatched the video camera and smashed it," Sergey Bulekov described the events. "Eventually they let us get to our car."

According to the Russian citizens, when they drove away from the market they were soon overtaken by a car. The people in the car stopped the Russians, asked what action would be taken by the Russian side, and gave an assurance that the incident had been spontaneous, they had been taken for "spies."

Representatives of the Russian Embassy in the DPRK are preparing an official protest over the incident.

Delhi Reports Moscow 'Firm' on Rocket Engine Deal

BK0507160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] The head of the Russian space agency, Dr. Aleksandr Dunayev, has assured the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] chief, Professor U.R. Rao, that Moscow is firm on its deal with India on the supply of cryogenic rocket engine. The assurance came at the talks between the two officials in Moscow today. Dr. Dunayev said that Russia will also go ahead with the transfer of technology.

A Russian foreign trade official told UNI that Professor Rao is likely to have a meeting with the foreign economic relations minister late this evening and discuss the India-Russian agreement. He said Moscow will explore possibilities for a compromise to satisfy all the concerned parties without scrapping the deal. The official told UNI that technology monitoring of the cryogenic engine production in India is possible by a joint Russian-American or an independent international commission. Such an arrangement, if agreed to, will not scrap the deal.

Semenov Meets With Turkish Defense Officials in Ankara

LD0707145093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0837 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 7 Jul—Russia's president and defense minister attach great importance to developing military-technical cooperation with Turkey. This was stated on 6 July by Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Russian Federation Ground Forces, who is here at the head of a Russian military delegation, during his meeting with Turkey's National Defense Minister Nevzat Ayaz. Ankara has always sought to maintain good relations with its northern neighbor, N. Ayaz said in reply. He said talks aimed at drawing up a cooperation agreement between Turkey and Russia in defense industry and military training were now under way and spoke in favor of signing this document as soon as possible.

At the meeting with Army General Dogan Gures, chief of the Turkish Armed Forces General Staff, the two sides agreed that the principal task of the armed forces was "not to wage war, but to preserve peace."

V. Semenov noted that the Russian delegation was given a hearty welcome in Turkey and that this served as a good incentive for developing relations between the two states' armies.

The commander in chief of the Russian Federation Ground Forces is visiting the country at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart, Army General Muhittin Fisunoglu. Before his visit ends on 9 July, he is expected to tour the headquartes, institutions, and units of the Turkish Army in Ankara, Istanbul, and Polatli.

Russian Ship Sinks After Explosion in Persian Gulf

LD0607112193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1041 GMT 6 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow July 6 TASS—Sailors from the Russian ship "Captain Sakharov", which sank in the Persian Gulf on Monday [5 July] night, have been brought to the Bahrain sea port, ITAR-TASS learned from a department of sea transport of the Russian Federation. On July 8, the sailors will be sent home, the same source said.

The accident occurred when the ship was sailing from the United Arab Emirates to Saudi Arabia. The ship, belonging to the Northern Shipping Company (Arkhangelsk sea port) was leased by a foreign company. It was carrying a cargo kept in containers when one of the containers exploded, killing two sailors from the engine compartment who were nearby. The rest 25 members of the crew tried to save the ship by extinguishing the flames. When the captain realised that they would not manage to put out the fire he ordered the crew to leave the ship in boats. Three hours after the explosion the crew of the sunk ship was taken aboard the "Molodogvardeisk" vessel. The investigation into the causes of the explosion has begun.

"The rescue operations were efficient," said Anatoliy Orekhovskiy, one of the chiefs of the Naval Rescue Coordination Centre. Three vessels that were in the area of the accident were given the order to head for the "SOS" region. Two of the vessels belong to the Ukrainian shipping company. However, there are no borders for sailors in emergency situations. From the "Molodogvardeisk" the rescued sailors were taken on board the "Petr Strelkov" ship which brought the sailors to Bahrain.

The rescued sailors are reported to be in a normal condition.

The "Captain Sakharov", built in 1979, was a comparatively small ship with a deadweight of 6,000 tonnes.

Commentary on Drop in Arms Exports

LD0507202593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Text] [Unidentified announcer] One of the subjects expected to be brought up when President Boris Yeltsin meets the Group of Seven leaders in Tokyo this week, is the export of Russian arms. Some background information on the subject from Boris Belitskiy:

[Belitskiy] There are several reasons why Russia's arms exports have lately become a much discussed international issue. For one thing, the wraps of secrecy that once shrouded them have now been removed. For another, there have been some rather spectacular deals, such as the latest, the sale of 18 MiG-29 interceptors to Malaysia in the face of stiff competition from America's F-18 fighters.

To be sure, in strictly moral terms the arms trade is an evil, but at this stage in human history, it's clearly an unavoidable evil. For when one country reduces its arms sales the markets given up are immediately taken over by one of the other major powers, all of which are today arms exporters.

This became particularly apparent last year when Russia's arms sales dropped to less than $2 billion, down from $23 billion in 1989, and the markets given up were promptly taken over by other exporters.

For Russia this was little short of a disaster. Coupled with a drop in oil exports, it drastically upset the balance of trade. At a time of grave economic crisis, such a loss of revenue, if it persisted, could have serious social and political implications. Clearly, Russia cannot afford to follow a moral code not accepted by the other world powers.

Hence, the acceptance of the principle that since there is a demand for its arms, developed at the cost of enormous intellectual and material resources, Russia can and must sell them, but not to anyone indiscriminately. It is abiding by the international embargo on arms sales to Iraq, Libya and Yugoslavia, formerly its traditional customers.

In the present situation arms exports can bring in hard currency, vitally needed for economic reform, including the conversion of the defense industry to civilian production. What's more, the export of sophisticated engineering products reduces Russia's traditional dependence on exports of raw materials, and helps the country to service its debt to the West.

The reasons for the present drastically reduced scale of Russia's arms exports are many. On the one hand, there is such a welcome development as the global scaling down of arms purchases as a result of the ending of the East-West confrontation. Then there is the halting of traditional arms exports to Iraq, Libya and Yugoslavia, and there is the break-up of the Warsaw Pact, whose members are now increasingly looking to the West for their arms supplies. (?But), on the other hand, there is also growing competition from Western countries, likewise facing problems as the result of defense conversion and in no hurry to lift Cold War restrictions on trade with Russia, some of which have become clearly discriminatory. It is progress on such problems that Russia would like to see at the Tokyo G-7 summit.

Media & Political Issues

Minister Urges Communications Workers Not To Strike

LD0707153693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS—The central committee of communications workers trade unions circulated on Wednesday a report saying that work collectives of a number of Russian radio and television broadcasting enterprises warned they will stop conducting broadcasts as of July 13 unless their social and economic demands are met.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Communications Minister of the Russian Federation Vladimir Bulgak urged collectives to refrain from these steps. He said that Russian Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov signed documents under which 2.8 billion roubles are allocated. The debt to communications enterprises for the first quarter of 1993 amounts to this sum. Payment documents for another 18 billion roubles, the sum of the debt of the Ministry of Communications to state-owned television and radio broadcasting companies have also been signed.

The minister said that the lack of funds constitutes a problem. As funds are received, they will be channelled to repay the debt. The prime minister keeps the matter under control, he said. Bulgak added that strikes of communications enterprises are prohibited by law. He noted this measure cannot yield a positive result. At the same time, the minister said he is aware of social tension in the collectives that have not been receiving salaries over two months. He said the state should meet its obligations to television and radio broadcasting companies which it has undertaken to maintain.

The minister believes the trade union central committee has been quite patient. It was forced to follow in the wake of worked collectives that despaired of receiving the funds needed for their activity. However, the stoppage of broadcasting is a financial problem rather than a political one. "If workers in the communications area and trade unions wished to provoke unsanctioned actions, they would have resorted to this step on the eve of the referendum", Bulgak said.

Urals TV, Radio Companies Hold Conference

LD0707201193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Jul 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Our correspondent reports that a conference of the heads of six TV and radio companies in the Urals region was held in Yekaterinburg today. A letter was sent to the Russian president that informs him about a critical situation that has evolved due to the lack of adequate budget financing, and also as a result of the decision of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to give the Communications Ministry the right to withdraw money from the accounts of local TV and radio companies. These measures create social tension in collectives and in fact lead to the repression of local broadcasting, the message stresses.

Council of Ministers Presidium Meets 7 Jul

LD0707194093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1922 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS—The press service of the Government of the Russian Federation on the instructions from the Presidium of the Council of Ministers—the Government of the Russian Federation reports that at its meeting today the Presidium of the Council of Ministers considered a letter of July 3 by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov informing of a decision of a joint session of chambers of the Supreme Soviet to hear on July 8 a report about the activities of the Council of Ministers in the first six months of 1993 on overcoming a crisis social and economic situation in the course of the implementation of the economic reform.

The Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation considers it necessary to inform the public opinion that in accordance with the law of the Russian Federation "on the Council of Ministers—the Government of the Russian Federation" this issue is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers and therefore should be preliminarily considered at a meeting of the Council of Ministers and approved by a majority of votes of members of the government, including chairmen of the governments of the republics within the Russian Federation.

The government is preparing an enlarged meeting of the Council of Ministers—the Government of the Russian Federation on this issue which is scheduled for July 29 with participation of the leadership of the Supreme Soviet and people's deputies of the Russian Federation after which the corresponding materials will be submitted to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

In connection with the above, the Presidium of the Council of Ministers considers it impossible for the chairman of the Council of Ministers to make a report on the government activities at the date proposed by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

8 Jul Meeting Postponed

LD0707172993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS—The press center of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation has announced that a meeting of the Presidium of the

Council of Ministers—Government of the Russian Federation scheduled for July 8, has been postponed. The date of the next meeting of the presidium will be reported later.

Activities of Chernomyrdin, Vice Premiers Noted

PM0707130193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpt]

Meetings, Talks, Sessions

Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin has met with President Boris Yeltsin. They discussed a broad range of economic problems. Viktor Chernomyrdin also chaired a conference on the Astrakhan oil and gas complex.

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov has held a session of the Economy Ministry Collegium which examined questions relating to the current economic situation. Later Oleg Lobov received Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Russia. The first vice premier's working day ended at the Supreme Soviet.

The session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers Commission on Operational Questions was chaired by First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets. One of the main questions at the meeting was the situation in the coal sector. Vice premiers Sergey Shakhray, Boris Fedorov, and Yuriy Yarov took part in this important session. In the evening Oleg Soskovets received a Cuban delegation. [passage omitted]

Rutskoy Rejects Removing Leaders 'By Force'

PM0707141193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jul 93 p 2

["Own Inf" report: "A. Rutskoy Opposed to Force in Politics"]

[Text] Speaking in Novosibirsk, the vice president has stated that Russia is "in a total crisis, enterprises are grinding to a halt, there are no definite prospects, the financial system has been completely destroyed, and sums equivalent to four times the budget deficit are being stolen every year." In his opinion, elections should be held in December 1993-February 1994, but the voting system must be changed beforehand, otherwise it will be impossible to stop votes being bought.

A. Rutskoy went on to claim that "a state mafia machine is being created and it will fight to the bitter end." In the vice president's opinion, it is now impossible to be in opposition and to prove anything to the president or premier. He named R. Khasbulatov, V. Zorkin, and Yu. Skokov among those around whom public opinion could rally. At the same time, the vice president rejected the option of removing the current leadership from power by force.

Anticrime Panel Chief Seen as Yeltsin 'Fixer'

PM0807093193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[Aleksey Vorobyev article: "Kremlin Accepts Another 'Fixer'"]

[Text] The president's administration has made a new acquisition. A 28 June edict has appointed the lawyer Andrey Makarov as chief of the administration for ensuring the activity of the Russian Federation Security Council's interdepartmental commission for fighting crime and corruption.

When the still quite young lawyer was invited to defend Yuriy Churbanov—Brezhnev's son-in-law, who was accused of arrant corruption—some people immediately started hinting at his ties to corresponding clans from the former USSR. After all, this kind of job would not be offered to just anybody. Others, taking a more objective view, said that it is the mark of a civilized rule-of-law state that a defense lawyer should provide the best defense possible, regardless of the gravity of the charge or of his political views.

Well, we can only be gratified that Mr. Makarov is beginning his climb to the legal heights so well. The opinion that he is independent and objective seemed to be confirmed when he represented the president, on his instructions, at the Constitutional Court hearings on the CPSU case. After all, Makarov's role in this instance was just the opposite—he was no longer defending but zealously accusing the "commies." But what breadth of vision, what wealth of scope!

It would have been expected that the lawyer—now popular with TV viewers—would defend one of the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. That seemed to be the logical career progression, but what came next was quite amazing to civilized lawyers. Whether vexed with what was, for him, an undesirable Constitutional Court ruling, or having finally worked out which power structures provide the fullest and tastiest fodder, the lawyer Makarov certainly let his hair down.

He began to "pour cold water" at every turn not only on court verdicts but on the Constitutional Court itself; that is, the lawyer made it his goal to discredit legal institutions themselves and his own legal training in the eyes of citizens, who must obey the law in any society.

If a professional tries so doggedly to destroy the attributes of his profession (and respect for the court is a mandatory attribute) he is either crazy or... The second option is illustrated by the stenographic record of the president's discussion with his comrades-in-arms 13 March, as published in a number of publications. Discussing how to destroy the Constitutional Court, Boris Yeltsin called on his subordinates to act more swiftly and resolutely. Filatov immediately suggested: "Makarov will be talking about Zorkin in Leningrad tomorrow.

Perhaps afterward he could be carried on the Moscow channel?" Boris Nikolayevich was satisfied: "That's not a bad idea. Let one lawyer attack another."

The conclusion is obvious—Makarov was engaged by the Kremlin team to attack his colleagues directly and indirectly by means of various TV shows, and in the opinion of his masters, he coped with his task.

What, for instance, are we to make of the statement made a few days ago on TV again that the state is buying deputies? Of course they are, but quietly taking aim, the lawyer Makarov this time smarmed his way out of it; it is Kremlin figures who are now trying to buy deputies with privileges and benefits.

That rider was a product of his subconscious, for at that very moment the lawyer was probably enjoying the thought that he had found himself a lucrative position. How else can you describe the administration for ensuring the activity (?!) of the interdepartmental commission, of which he has been made the chief? Is the commission unable to combat corruption by itself, even under the auspices of the Security Council? Does somebody have to **ensure** its activity? In what way? Through Kremlin handouts, freebies, and cars, or with recommendations about which person should be given closer attention in the specific political situation?

Well, whatever policy the president has, he needs cadres to carry it out. The criminals and bribe-takers named by the vice president and the General Prosecutor's Office can clearly rejoice at the appointment of this new "fixer"...

Civic Union Blames Federal Powers for Present Situation

LD0707183793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS—The Civic Union bloc has put responsibility for the "parade of sovereignties" by Russian regions on federal authorities, which "tried clumsily to play on contradictions between republics, territories and regions in order to win their political support."

A statement by the press service of the Civic Union released here today, says that a certain contribution to the present situation was made also by the organisers of the Constitutional Conference which "opened the way to an arbitrary illegitimate revision of the foundations of building the Russian state."

The leaders of the Civic Union believe that the actions of regional authorities "show a raised level of their political maturity and activity." At the same time, the authors of the document point out, the recent collapse of the Soviet Union testifies to a serious danger of steps towards disintegration. The Civic Union sees a way out of the present situation in "reshaping power."

Kuban Democrats Want 'Direct Presidential Rule'

PM0707120993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Andrey Aderekhin report: "General Prosecutor Peruses the KUBANSKIY KURYER Carefully"]

[Text] Krasnodar—According to some of Kuban's democratic organizations and parties, a seismic wave was generated by their collective appeal to the president of Russia published in the newspaper KUBANSKIY KURYER [Kuban Courier] 20 March. The Security Ministry's local administration has taken an interest in it.

In their "Appeal" to Boris Yeltsin, the democratic forces formulated their way of overcoming the political crisis. They notably proposed that the Russian president dissolve soviets at all levels and introduce direct presidential rule in the country. This also involved fixing a date for elections to the Constitutional Assembly, which, unlike the congress, is, in the signatories' opinion, capable of adopting a new constitution.

The "Appeal" sent to the newpaper was signed by the Kuban Cossack Host, the "Memorial" Society, youth movements in Kuban, and the kray organizations of the Democratic Party of Russia, the Social Democratic Party of Russia, and the Party of Economic Freedom. The original copy of the "Appeal" submitted to the newspaper editorial office was signed by specific people—the authorized representatives of those organizations. And, during the two months following publication, all those people suddenly found the attention of the Security Ministry's kray administration focused on them.

The newspaper YUG [South], which publicized this story in its 30 June issue, cites the account of KUBANSKIY KURYER Editor I. Kolomiytsev.

"A week after publication of the 'Appeal' I was telephoned by a leading staffer of the kray Prosecutor's Office. He informed me that that the Krasnodar Kray Prosecutor's Office had received a directive from Russian General Prosecutor V. Stepankov to study the 'Appeal' published in the KUBANSKIY KURYER with a view to the possibility of instituting criminal proceedings under Article 70 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code."

After a while the kray Prosecutor's Office informed Stepankov that it had discovered no crime involved in the Kuban democratic organizations' "Appeal" to the president. Editor Kolomiytsev regarded the incident as closed. But a few weeks later he was telephoned by V. Donskoy, chief of the Public Relations Center of the Russian Ministry of Security Krasnodar Kray Administration. "He informed me that Stepankov had now assigned to the Russian Security Ministry Administration the same task which he had assigned to the kray Prosecutor's Office."

Administration staffers began gathering material, including meeting with the signatories. For example, Ivan Grigoryevich Fedorenko, cochairman of the Krasnodar Kray "Memorial" organization and former Gulag prisoner, spent 2 and a half hours at the Russian Security Ministry Administration. The administration staffers asked all kinds of questions. How had the signatories first gathered? What did they organize at their gathering—storming the post office, the telegraph office, the premises of soviets? What prompted you to organize a picket, for example, and write to the newspaper? Did you keep the very first draft—the rough copy of the "Appeal"? Did you receive a fee for the item? Did you have to press the editor to speed up publication of your "Appeal"?

IZVESTIYA has already reported a similar story. The Supreme Soviet sanctioned the arrest of People's Deputy Mironov, who also dared to address his criticism of the system of soviet power to the president.

As we can see, those who do not favor soviets and dare to convey their opinions on this score to the president are being pursued not just in Moscow.

True, the episode in Kuban won't, it seems, end in arrests. The signatories of the "Appeal" reported that staffers of the Russian Security Ministry administration have told them that they are forced to act in accordance with the general prosecutor's demand and that the bulky file of written explanations they are collecting is only to provide a response to Stepankov.

Burbulis Lobbies Intelligentsia for Support

PM0707123393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Jul 93 p 1

[Igor Kosarev and Tatyana Zagruzina report: "Reformists, Pragmatists, and Revanchists. These Three Blocs, Gennadiy Burbulis Thinks, Will Be Main Rivals in the Coming Elections"]

[Text] Gennadiy Burbulis is expected in St. Petersburg 9 July. It is well known that during his last trip to the city, he was involved in an accident on the Orlan yacht. This accident, which was covered by the mass media, overshadowed the aims of Gennadiy Burbulis' visit to the city on the Neva. Naturally, he had not gone there for a yacht trip. His visit was not of a political nature, it was more of a working visit—aimed at holding talks with different city structures within the framework of the problems of the "Strategy" International Humanitarian Center's activity. Gennadiy Burbulis met with the intelligentsia at the Journalists Center.

His speech took the form of a direct dialogue and contained a number of surprising points. One of them was Gennadiy Burbulis' admission that the election campaign has begun—primarily as far as his political opponents are concerned. In the opinion of the leader of the "Strategy" Center, the main rivals at the coming parliamentary elections will be represented by three blocs—the reformist bloc, the revanchist bloc, and the pragmatic bloc.

The pragmatic bloc will represent those structures which do not support procommunist forces yet are, at the same time, disappointed with the democrats—who have shouldered the burden of power but have not yet lived up to the population's expectations. The pragmatists are mainly professionals who know what to do and how to do it. That is why the reformers' task is to enter into a dialogue with them and find common ground. The person who leads the pragmatists' bloc is very important, in Burbulis' opinion, because the former nomenklatura—including the party nomenklatura, which has managed to strengthen its positions—will attempt to speak on behalf of this bloc, unlike the "honest" Communists who make no secret of their aims and convictions.

In Gennadiy Burbulis' opinion, the time has now come for a new choice, and a particularly important role can now be played by the Russian intelligentsia, which can and must unite on a professional basis. The intelligentsia's position was clearly seen during the referendum and affected the result. Now, on the eve of elections, the role of the intelligentsia and its unification within the framework of the reformist course will again be decisive.

'Association of Voters' Canvasses for Deputies

PM0707135993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Vladimir Smirnov, member of the Executive Committtee of the Association of Voters: "'Russia's Choice' Club Seeks Future Deputies"]

[Text] The organization of early elections to the new professional parliament will not be crowned with success if we do not get down right now to selecting prospective deputies.

The Association of Voters—the bloc of "Russia's Choice" reformist forces—sees this task as paramount. It pins great hopes on the interregional "Club of Prospective Candidates of the Association." All expenses are being met by the Moscow Guild of Entrepreneurs. The All-Russia Association of Enterprises Undergoing Privatization, Private Enterprises, and Entrepreneurs is ready to provide assistance.

A draft law or amendments to existing laws will constitute the "entrance fee" to the club. Expert appraisal of them will be carried out by a team of reformists headed by Yegor Gaydar. Prizes will be established to provide incentives for work on draft laws, but it is club members' participation in primary elections, during which association supporters will present their candidates, that will be the main prize.

Club members will study the experience of the work of professional parliaments in the West and will attend lectures given by prominent foreign specialists on the foundations of parliamentarianism. The Academy of the National Economy is ready to hold seminars for potential parliamentary candidates.

Moreover, seminars-cum-schools will be organized on the problems of providing organizational and legal backup for the work of a professional parliament in Russia, on problems of state and international law, on the bases of a market economy, on political regimes, on the organization of political activity, etc.

The "Russia's Choice" bloc of reformist forces intends to form a faction of supporters of reforms in the future parliament united through their joint work on draft laws. It will assist its deputies in their professional work, supplying each one with skilled assistants—lawyers and economists—and paying their research costs. Moreover, it will see to it that the deputies are found jobs on the expiration of their term of office.

The following address may be used for all enquiries: Club of Candidates, Apartment Block 5, Ogarev Street, Moscow 103928; for telephone information, contact 203-30-45.

Columnist Ponders Maneuvers Around Draft Constitution

PM0707142193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Linkov "Weekly Review": "Things Have Started Happening but in the Wrong Way"]

[Text] The constitutional blitz clearly has not worked. At the latest plenary session of the Constitutional Conference its organizers ran into clear opposition to the prepared version of the draft Constitution. In addition, the working commission and constitutional arbitration service will scarcely have time by the next plenary session, scheduled for 12 July, to find a point of contact for all interests. They are too contradictory. There is another interesting point here: Whatever else happens, when the new Basic Law is adopted it will be impossible to do without the Congress of People's Deputies. That is recognized by the president's side, which was confirmed last week when a session of the parliamentary Commission for Reforms began discussing work on the draft new Constitution and the idea of convening a congress was put forward.

This would seem to be a sensible way to seek consensus. Nevertheless, last week the most radical reformist wing tried to mount yet another political campaign: It began collecting signatures among people's deputies for an appeal calling for for a vote of no confidence in the present Supreme Soviet leadership. The aim here is all too obvious—to split the deputies' ranks and weaken a parliament which is far from united anyway and reflects our society.

The representatives of the more centrist parliamentary factions understand the impossibility of proceeding without the congress when it comes to adopting the Constitution. This point was made, for example, at a session of the faction "Accord for Progress."

Meanwhile, the pre-election campaign is beginning to gather momentum. S. Shakhray has announced the creation of his party and a bloc is consolidating around Ye. Gaydar. The political groupings which consider themselves the leaders in Russia are making early efforts to declare their presence. Naturally enough, at the moment the discussion is increasingly about the re-election of deputies. It is them that people are trying to blame for all the omissions and failures. There is no talk of the early election of the Russian president. Not yet. Because those who are talking most about the need for elections to the federal organs of representative power need the president primarily in the fight against parliament. As soon as that need ceases to exist the bids for the presidency will begin.

It is appropriate at this point to ask the following question: What kind of state do our leaders want to head? Unfortunately the forcible imposition of the Constitution has begun to provoke the kind of reaction that people warned about before. Last week the creation of the Urals Republic was announced. This was bound to happen. It was the contradictions in the definition of the rights of the components of the Federation—who should have more rights, the republics or the krays and oblasts—which played the crucial role in the creation of the Urals Republic. Now wait for others to appear.

Things have started to happen, as one of our leaders was wont to say. The result is also well known. Tired of the political ballyhoo foisted on everyone from the center, the leaders of Russia's new state formations will meet one fine day somewhere far from Moscow to announce that they are dispensing with its services and those of the president.

What kind of Constitution will be written then?

'Working Russia' Wants USSR's Restoration

PM0707154193 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Jul 93 p 2

[N. Garifullina report: "Assembly To Meet"]

[Text] The summer action program of the "Working Russia" and "Working Capital" movements and the Russian Communist Workers Party [RCWP] was announced at the traditional Sunday meeting of the "living chain" of defenders of the V.I. Lenin Museum and Mausoleum. "We must switch," Viktor Anpilov said in his speech, "to a more difficult task than we have tackled hitherto—ending the fratricidal warfare between the peoples and restoring the USSR. This is a cri de coeur from millions of people, and this task stems from the actual practice of struggle." V. Anpilov called for all politicians, whatever flag—red, green, the flag of St.

Andrew, the hammer and sickle, and so forth—they may hide behind, to be unmasked if they oppose the restoration of the Soviet Union.

"Working Russia" and the RCWP plan to hold an assembly of Soviet peoples in Moscow 3 October, placing the main emphasis on three republics—Belorussia [Belorussiya], Ukraine, and Russia. It was their presidents who initiated the destruction of the USSR and it is the duty of these peoples to set an example in restoring a single mighty power.

Those present supported the call from "Working Russia" and the RCWP for an emergency session of the three republics' parliaments to be immediately convened to denounce the Belovezhskaya Forest agreement.

The short-term action program envisages that every labor collective should nominate delegates to the assembly of peoples of the USSR, picket all main-line stations and busy squares, and collect signatures in support of the delegates. The aim is to gather together 1 million representatives of the multinational Soviet people at the assembly to say: "No to war! Yes to the Soviet Union!"

Regions Must Heed Lessons of Collapse of USSR

PM0807090393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed article under the rubric "Our Commentary": "Have We Really Learned Nothing From the Bitter Lessons of the USSR's Collapse?"]

[Text] Unfortunately, history does repeat itself. Two years ago, when the so-called "sovereignty parade" was in full swing and when the masses were gripped by the idea of fighting the "imperial center," it seemed to many people that we were not at all talking about the collapse of a great power, but merely of a higher degree of logic and justice in its structure. It was hard even to imagine that the age-old ties between Russia and Ukraine, Belarus, the Transcaucasus, and Central Asia could be broken. But look around today—try to find just one now-sovereign state, just one people that is really enjoying a better life as a result of universal sovereignization. The breakdown of economic and cultural ties, the buildup of currency, customs, and border barriers, the gradual destruction of a mighty, united Army, and the sharp weakening of our defense capability—this is what we can all see to have been the result. Problems, problems, and more problems which in no way alleviating our already difficult transition to a market economy, but are turning it into an extremely hard and dramatic trial for millions of people.

Back then, at the time of the outwardly innocuous "Novo-Ogarevo process," nobody openly told people that they favored the collapse of the USSR. They talked about the fact that a confederal state structure was allegedly better than a federal structure, and that a single-channel system of taxation whereby each republic would decide for itself how much to pay into the federal budget was better than a two-channel system. They said that the regions should have more rights in currency, export, and customs affairs. And then we would all be in clover...

Are not these the same kind of sweet promises we are hearing today? A Vologda state, a Urals state, a Maritime state. You would think it was a joke. Just think, there was an oblast, and now it is being called a republic. But the point is that it is not just a problem of a change of name or of some region getting its own coat of arms, flag, anthem, or president. Ordinary people may even find these trappings gratifying. But nobody is telling them that the proclamation of a state is no laughing matter and that lying in wait for them are difficult problems in the financial and economic sphere, in the political sphere, and, ultimately, the military sphere... Processes are beginning which—as in the case of the USSR—could at some point become irreversible.

Now all the creators of the self-proclaimed republics are united in proclaiming their loyalty to the idea of Russia's unity. Moreover, the people of Yekaterinburg, for instance, are claiming that they are thereby apparently trying to save the united federation—contrasting their action with the aspirations of certain autonomous entities which are essentially already demanding the establishment of confederative relationships within the Russian Federation. There is no doubt that these demands on the part of certain autonomous entities pose an enormous threat to Russia's integrity. There is no doubt that the problem of unequal rights in the political and economic spheres between autonomous entities and territorial formations—krays and oblasts, many of which surpass the current autonomous republics in terms both of population, territory, and economic potential—does exist and needs to be resolved. But is that any reason to act on the basis that two wrongs make a right? Isn't it too risky? Where is the guarantee that the people who started the process will not lose control over it?

The natural question is—who stands to benefit? The population of the regions? Today we can once again hear arguments along the lines of "with all our natural resources we wouldn't be failures—if only we were allowed to use them." Perhaps it would at least be worth taking a look at the Ukrainian example, where there was also a very widespread conviction that such a wealthy republic could live on its own with its own grain and its own lard. Many people there are now beginning to think again. So why do the Russian regions want to close their eyes to this and not draw lessons from it?

The people who undoubtedly stand to gain from sovereignization and "republicanization" are the local administrative elites. Very much so—someone, for instance, who may have been just a local soviet chairman now stands a chance of becoming a president. Perhaps only of part of Russia rather than all of it, but it would still be a big job. Mere leaders of oblast administrations would now become ministers, but the main thing would be the access to tasty slices of the pie of ownership and power.

But it must be clearly recognized that the incipient "republicanization" of Russia is a road which may lead to more and more borders and to the further breakdown of economic ties. What if things reached the point where what are currently the Russian Armed Forces had to be further repartitioned oblast by oblast and kray by kray?

Isn't it time to have a rethink? Isn't it time to finally come to our senses? Just how far will we allow ourselves to be taken in by sweet-sounding promises? We have been able to endure the collapse of the USSR. Although that is another question—have we been able to? But it is perfectly clear now that nobody will be able to endure the collapse of Russia.

Military & Economic Issues

Yeltsin Curbs Parliament Right To Grill Military Appointees

PM0807084393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Jul 93 p 1

[Vladimir Vladov report under the "From Our Newsdesk" rubric: "Russian Federation President Issues Directive on Regulating the Practice of Interviewing Candidates for Top Military Posts"]

[Text] Henceforth parliament can summon candidates for the military posts to which the most senior officers are appointed, the directive says, only with the agreement of the Russian president—the supreme commander in chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

This has been prompted by the costs, for which no provision is made and which are unjustifiable, and the fact that officers lose touch with the command and control of troops and naval forces.

TV Shows 'Abandoned' Equipment, Missiles

PM0707125593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Jul 93

[By V. Morozova and K. Dudin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Morozova to camera in a field with disused missile in background] These are strange times. You can see all sorts of things, and in all sorts of places. For example, you can find missiles, these awesome weapons, not only at military ranges but also in the middle of a field.

Last winter, when we filmed the countless tanks standing around near Omsk, we did so in secret, looking over our shoulders as we approached the barbed wire, but here our cameraman was free do to as he pleased. He was able to film the missile from any angle he liked, but search as we might, there appeared to be no one guarding these mighty surface-to-air missiles. On inspection we found that they had been gutted and were badly holed, which prompted the conclusion that this was abandoned property, proving the air defense service's slovenliness. This was denied by specialists.

[Unidentified voice] [Morozova plays back portion of a telephone conversation] Compared with the tanks, this is not equipment which is merely lying around. There could be tactical reasons...

[Morozova] This was followed by an intimation that this might be a dummy target which was set up to feed disinformation to a spy satellite.

Yet every such report is checked and rechecked, and on the ground there are no fences, no No Entry signs, just a mess. Apart from the missiles, various bits of equipment, position finding devices, and rusting mechanisms are lying around, and there is free access to all of this. If you want a piece of a missile or some other equipment, all you have to do is come and get it. Incidentally, there is a village nearby. What will remain then to give the impression of an awesome target? [Video shows a number of rusty missiles and other equipment in a field.]

Reforms Should Not Proceed at Army's Expense

PM0807095193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jul 93 p 1

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Ivanyuk, Socioeconomic Problems Desk editor: "It Is Necessary To Stabilize Finances, but Not at the Expense of the Army's Stability. On the Question of Seeking Ways To Fight Inflation and the Budget Deficit"]

[Text] This is not the first year that the Russian economy has been likened to Cinderella. This issue comes up only when the soapbox clamor has died down in the halls where the political elite runs the ball, and when it becomes necessary to put things in order, collect up the smashed crockery, do the washing up, sweep up, mend the clothing, etc., and even the exhortations during congresses or other lofty gatherings that it is apparently necessary to plow and sow instead of blowing hot air are no longer interpreted as a cry in the wilderness (which is near to the truth) but as a necessary part of the plot, at the end of which our Cinderella economy appears from a scullery off the deserted hall and gets down to hard work.

So now the main political battles of the first half of the year have died down, even though the passions surrounding the Constitutional Conference are still keeping the politicians in trim, and the clamor of the economists is getting louder and louder. The frankly populist decisions made in recent months and the resulting unchecked squandering of budgetary resources and credits from the Bank of Russia have brought Russia to a danger point. Specialists estimate that the budget deficit, taking into account price rises, may by year's end amount to 15 percent of GNP—an impermissibly high and dangerous level. In these conditions the task of stabilizing the country's financial situation becomes urgent. Emergency measures are necessary to surmount negative processes both in the economy and in the social sphere.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an edict "On Certain Measures To Curb Inflation" 3 June. The document was probably not met with rapture in the ministries and departments which were instructed to reduce their expenditure by 20 percent, but I think the majority were, nevertheless, understanding about it. The whole question now is where exactly to find this 20 percent and which actual expenses to reduce. It is no secret that there are different approaches and different concepts. Take for example the proposals of the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance for resolving the financial problems in 1993. They essentially boil down to the following: a moratorium on new spending, a postponement of the implementation of a number of decisions, a reduction of ineffective subsidies and unjustified benefits, abandoning the idea of reducing taxes, and a further increase in interest rates. Several other measures are also proposed, out of which, for example, the liberalization of the price of coal is already being put into effect.

The proposals are on the whole sensible, and it is impossible to disagree with this general description, but as soon as general provisions acquire a specific outline, unavoidable questions unfortunately arise. One of the documents, originating from within the Ministry of Finance and whose contents I recently happened to study, says in particular: "It will cost more than 2 trillion rubles [R] this year to bring into force the Russian Federation Law 'On the Status of Servicemen' which the Supreme Soviet adopted in spite of repeated objections by the Ministry of Finance and the government; furthermore, a number of its articles were not dictated by necessity, while expenditure under articles like those on monetary compensation for renting housing and mandatory state insurance of servicemen's property is uncontrollable, which will lead to an increase in expenditure under this law." The following conclusion is drawn: "We cannot embark on implementing these decisions before June (all the signs indicate that the document was drafted in May), and the bringing into force of a number of articles of the Russian Federation Law 'On the Status of Servicemen' should be suspended."

Of course, the economic situation today is such that one can only sympathize with the government. The reforms are proceeding with the greatest of difficulty, and the financial crisis is indisputably one of the key factors jeopardizing the very possibility of the reforms' implementation. But we should not forget that, apart from the economic risk, there is also a political risk in implementing large-scale transformations within the Russian state, and this cannot under any circumstances be left out of the equation.

In principle it might be possible to refrain from discussing the findings of the Ministry of Finance in the newspaper, especially since they are only proposals for the time being. The document in question was not intended to be discussed in such a way. But the impact which it has already had is alarming even though it has not even been partially put into effect. As people say there are no secrets which cannot be made public, and the rumors have already disturbed people in the Army. We wrote about this in our mailbag review "The Road from Promises to Guarantees Is Hazardous," which was published 25 June, citing specific facts. Military collectives are already living in difficult circumstances—the fuel shortage hinders combat training, materiel and food supplies are disrupted, and allowances to servicemen and wages to civilian personnel remain unpaid for months at a time. Of course, the talk of "freezing" the benefits which the state has only just granted and from which the military personnel have not yet even benefited properly, only pours oil on the fire. You can imagine the social stress that would rock the Armed Forces and the intense disappointment in the government's policies if the laws really were suspended, the indexation of allowances and pensions was frozen, and so on, and this at a time when the situation in the Army and Navy has finally begun to stabilize, and soldiers and sailors had gotten a chance to concentrate on their professional problems.

Military people always have always shown understanding for state interests. Things cannot be otherwise as they are, after all, guarding these interests, but if we were to really think about replenishing the treasury coffers, then, before counting the money in servicemen's pockets, it would be proper to count the money in the pockets of those who conceal millions of their income from the taxman. This is where we should look for funds to plug the "gap." In this way people would react with much greater understanding to decisive government measures aimed at replenishing the state budget by stepping up financial control, reducing the unjustifiably overgrown state apparatus, and so on.

It is also important to point out that if someone seriously imagines that the Armed Forces' financial problems can be eliminated by cutting back on social programs as a whole, he is, to put it mildly, laboring under an illusion. The decision to index the military budget from R3.5 to R5.35 trillion, which the Russian president announced during the assembly of the Russian Army's top officers in June, only partially eases the tension. As the military financial specialists' calculations show, a realistic requirement would be at least R8.7 trillion. According to estimates, the so-called "savings" which could be gained by depriving servicemen of a number of benefits and payments and by reducing the amounts of one-shot payments when servicemen are discharged, of bonuses based on year-end results, and of "military" pensions, may, it turns out, only produce about R385 billion. To be blunt, the result would not be very great when seen against the background of all the demands. On the other hand, it is easy to imagine what a colossal damage would be inflicted by the implementation of the idea of suspending the bringing into force of a series of articles of the Russian Federation Law "On the Status of Servicemen..."

It is hard to imagine that Russian President B.N. Yeltsin would embark on this. He has repeatedly and publicly declared that the policy of social support for servicemen was unshakable and immutable, and clearly reaffirmed this at the recent Kremlin reception in honor of military academy graduates. It is also hard to believe that the Supreme Soviet could embark on repealing or freezing legislative acts which it has only just adopted: The deputies, of course, realize that this would blatantly discredit the legislative branch of power in the eyes of the Army. It is also well-known that far from everybody in the government espouses such approaches, but the fact that some senior officials still do not rule out this point of view cannot but cause alarm. After all, these very officials can, without any official decisions being made, put their views into effect in a, so to speak, unauthorized manner, by "freezing" the provisions of the laws from the "military package" quite simply by using every possible method to delay the elaboration of mechanisms to implement them. Which is to a certain degree happening today. But do these possibly sincere reformers realize that they will only give an advantage to the opponents of reform by using these methods?

Finance is a strict, precise, and extremely complex field. We have repeatedly seen for ourselves that it becomes extremely dangerous whenever political posturing intrudes there. It should be left to specialists and professionals. Today, however, it is evidently necessary to mention the danger of another extreme element. After all, it is impossible to approach the problem of stabilizing the financial situation by using strictly technocratic methods, taking into consideration only debit and credit and without thinking about the practical impact of various decisions and actions. All theoretical schemes must, one way or another, be tested out in practice; therefore it is altogether impossible to cope with the implementation of reforms without a degree of sensible politics or, to be more precise, without taking into account the interests of specific categories of citizens, including servicemen. Ultimately, reforms are not made for the sake of paper statistics and favorable indicators. They are made for people.

Wages Paid at Arzamas-16 Nuclear Center

PM0707112893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1245 GMT 5 Jul 93

[From the "Business in Russia" program]

[Text] [Reporter voice over video of soldiers guarding wire fence.] The extremely complex situation in connection with the catastrophic shortage of funds, primarily for paying wages, has persisted until recently at Russia's federal nuclear center Arzamas-16. Scientists and the majority of technical personnel since April through 29 June were on virtually starvation rations, receiving no wages. On 24 June the desperate people held a meeting of sanction which adopted an appeal to the president, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and the prime minister of Russia.

[Unidentified man addressing meeting] The Russian federal nuclear center is on the verge of bankruptcy and collapse. Its extremely grave financial and economic situation has led to the point where wages have not been paid for over two months now.

[Reporter] They also again drew the attention of the state leaders to the critical situation which has taken shape here and also to the possible consequences unless appropriate measures are taken. Let us recall that at the end of February 1992 by a directive from President Yeltsin the all-union scientific research institute of experimental physics in this city was transformed into the federal nuclear center. It stipulated in particular the wages norm for the institute personnel, financing for the social sphere, military guard, the earmarking of funds for the development and use of the types of arms produced here, but all that was only for 1992. What came next? Next, to call things by their proper name, the people at this unique scientific center with which world-famous names like Sakharov and Khariton, Zeldovich and Flerov are linked, were left to the mercy of fate, abandoned by the central authorities with virtually no means of subsistence. It turned out that the president's directive had the force of law only through the end of 1992 that is the earmarking of funds to pay for wages and other spheres of activity at the center this year were not envisaged by it. Until the recent financial injection wages for April had only been received by workers at the children's preschool institution and in transport and energy. All the rest have so far been fed only promises. People have in practice had to live only on their personal savings and their kitchen garden plots. Matters even reached the point where many scientists have already been obliged to seek work in various commercial structures. According to information from the center's leaders money has finally arrived: In the past week the personnel received their wages for April. It is planned to pay the wages for May in the next few days and the wages for June before 15 July. And so the problem would seem to have been eliminated. It remains merely to be hoped that it will not arise again when it becomes necessary to pay wages in July and subsequent months. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Freezes Commercial Bank Accounts

PM0807102593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jul 93 First Edition p 4

[Ivan Zhagel report: "Twenty-Two Banks on Central Bank of Russia 'Black List'"]

[Text] A few days ago the Central Bank of Russia [CBR] Main Administration for the City of Moscow effectively froze all operations by 22 commercial banks because their expenditure has for a long time exceeded their income. From that moment payments from the banks' correspondent accounts were halted completely, while all incoming revenue was being channeled into clearing the debit balance.

It is clear that this pretty tough measure is designed primarily to protect the interests of the share-holders and clients of the penalized banks, since any prolongation of such "economic" activity could bring them to the verge of bankruptcy. In the interests of clients, including prospective ones, it is worth giving the complete list of these credit institutions, and they are as follows: "Progressbank," Stankomekhprombank," a branch of "Industriya-Servis," "Ekabank," the Mortage Credit Bank, the SEA-Bank, "Romaton," "Pragma-Bank," "Stokbank," MMM-Bank, "Investbiznesbank," "Kholdingtembank," "Kredit-Konsensus," "Status-Kredit," the Russian Municipal Bank, the subsidiaries of "Geka" Bank in Moscow and Zelenograd, NIKZ, "Rusinvest," "Izumrudnyy," "Rem-Bank," "Aleko," and a subsidiary of "Kholdingtembank."

True, as of today, a number of them could restore the balance between income and expenditure: These include the "Industriya-Servis," "SEA-Bank," "Stokbank, and "Kholdingtembank." While another three banks initially cleared their debit balance, but jumped back into the red within two days, so there is no point in mentioning them.

Some specialists immediately suggested that the 22 commercial banks were victims of the notorious letters of advice scandal, and that the debit balance arose because money which had previously been transferred to them against forged payment documents was removed from them, but as was said at the CBR Main Administration for the City of Moscow, banks which suffered from the letters of advice scandal are not included among the offenders here. The list contains only those which made their own miscalculations in their operations.

It is clear that deplorable credit policy is the main cause of the debit balance. The banks poorly assess the borrowers' means and the effectiveness of the projects on which they lend money, and as a consequence these credits are not repaid or are repaid only after a long delay. Of course, the lack of professionalism among the leadership of banks is at the bottom of all this, and their shareholders do have food for thought here.

But another factor is also noteworthy. The aforementioned list basically contains no major banks, while their names betray their affiliation or closeness, as it were, to a particular sector or sphere of activity, and therein lies a serious problem.

To date there have been frequent instances in Russia of a bank being set up only subsequently to issue cheap and, as a rule, nonreturnable credit to one or several of its major founders. In this case you get "tame banks," as it were, which are rigidly harnessed to particular sectors or even major entereprises. Naturally, these banks are nonviable or, if they do develop, they do so very slowly, and one should join the ranks of their shareholders or clients with great caution.

Columnist Views Declaration of Economic Accord

PM0707124593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Jul 93 p 1

[Yuriy Rytov "Commentary": "Declaration Signed: Will It Mean a Real Step Toward Social Accord"]

[Text] It is well known that the participants in the roundtable conference set up on the initiative of parliament and the government recently signed the Declaration of Nationwide Economic Accord. The document bears the signatures of Ruslan Khasbulatov and Viktor Chernomyrdin, another 15 state figures responsible for implementing the reforms, 30 academicians and professors, 14 representatives of parties and movements, plus many representatives of trade unions, entrepreneurs, and labor collectives.

The purpose of the document is to determine right now the approaches to the further reform of the economy and ensure the rallying of the broadest circles of the population around the ideas contained in the declaration.

You cannot fail to notice that in many regards the declaration bears a declarative character, due moreover to the very title of the document. Among other things the roundtable participants call the socioeconomic situation in Russia difficult and a crisis. Hardly anyone now will dispute that this thesis is just. What is far more important is to find the optimum solutions to the crisis.

It is no exaggeration to say that the decisions enshrined in the declaration practically coincide with the measures planned and being implemented by the government.

The document notes: "The formation of the market in Russian conditions is a gradual process and is based not just on the use of market methods but also on the active regulatory role of the state." I would recall that the prime minister has also repeatedly declared the need for state regulation of the econony.

The declaration goes on to set out a package of urgent measures to stabilize the economy, which are well known to us from government documents.

Reducing the rate of inflation to 10 percent a month by the end of the year. Halting the slump in production. Expanding the social base of the reforms. These, strictly speaking, are the three main planks on which the declaration rests. Sadly these "planks" are old friends to us.

But the declaration does contain a new and extremely important point. The authors of the document propose resolving all vital questions on the basis of agreements and accords (all-Russian solidarity pacts) among the main participants in the reform process. There are at least six such participants: the organs of representative power, the organs of executive power, the trade unions, entrepreneurs, labor collectives, and territories. It is recommended that talks on the conclusion of such agreements begin without delay.

First and foremost it is proposed that all-Russian agreements be concluded which examine the following problems: Reducing the level of inflation, halting the slump in production, social policy, and regional policy.

Let us not close our eyes to the fact that the path to the conclusion of such all-Russian solidarity pacts is tortuous and difficult. Nevertheless it is entirely realistic. Because it means that the Russian reforms can acquire a powerful social base and receive powerful public support. Without such support and such a base, our ascent toward a worthy life will remain agonizing and very long.

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Issues Edict on Human Rights in Estonia

PM0707114493 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Jul 93 First Edition p 7

["Edict of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on Measures in Connection With the Violation of Human Rights on the Territory of the Republic of Estonia," No. 5311-1, Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 1 July 1993, signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov]

[Text] In May-June 1993 the State Assembly of the Republic of Estonia adopted a law on elections to organs of local self-government and a law on foreigners. Since these acts ignore the interests of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Russians permanently residing in Estonia, their adoption cannot be regarded as purely the internal affair of the sovereign Republic of Estonia. Those inhabitants of Estonia who were formerly refused the right to acquire Estonian citizenship are now unequivocally deprived of the right to participate in local self-government even in regions where they make up the vast majority of the population. Furthermore, half a million permanent residents of the Republic are in effect declared to be some kind of illegal immigrants. They are deprived of the right to choose citizenship and place of residence and the right to freedom of movement and employment, and in some cases many of them could be expelled from Estonia.

At the same time, in the Republic of Estonia, at the level of local self-government organs, attempts are being made to pronounce invalid all grounds for residence on Estonian territory, including residence permits, for Russian servicemen and employees at enterprises of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, Russian Army pensioners, and their families. The authorities in the cities of Tallinn and Tartu have already adopted a decision to use the police to free the apartments occupied by these people.

The aforesaid steps are being carried out against the background of a hardening of Estonia's position at the interstate talks, in the course of which the Estonian side is still continuing to put forward unfounded territorial claims on Russia and deliberately delaying the drafting of a treaty on questions of citizenship, as well as the signing of a number of treaties and accords that have already been agreed on.

This practice on the part of state institutions in the Republic of Estonia creates a direct threat of the outbreak of acute interethnic conflict in Estonia and grossly violates not only the relevant provisions of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1966 International Pact on Civil and Political Rights and other international documents on human rights, but also the provisions of the 12 January 1991 Treaty on the Fundamentals of Interstate Relations Between the RSFSR and the Republic of Estonia, and is in direct conflict with the documents of the Helsinki, Copenhagen, and Moscow CSCE conferences.

In the light of the aforesaid, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. The Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation is to:

implement within two weeks a package of measures to exert political, economic, and other influence on the Republic of Estonia, including the total suspension of the withdrawal of Russian Federation troops pending the signing of the relevant agreements;

draw up and submit to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet within one month a program for the protection of the interests of and support for ethnic Russians living outside the Russian Federation (in the territory of the former USSR);

urgently inform the United Nations, the CSCE, the Council of Europe, and the governments of countries belonging to those organizations of the discriminatory policy of the Republic of Estonia with regard to ethnic minorities living on its territory, and of the decisions adopted in this connection by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, the president of the Russian Federation, and the Government of the Russian Federation;

inform the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet of the work done by way of implementing the present Decree within one month.

2. It is proposed that the State Assembly of the Republic of Estonia hold consultations in the near future on the question of legislative provision for the fulfillment of the 12 January 1991 Treaty on the Fundamentals of Interstate Relations Between the RSFSR and the Republic of Estonia, at the level of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet leadership and the Republic of Estonia State Assembly leadership, as regards guaranteeing all persons residing on the territory of the Republic of Estonia equal civil and political rights and freedoms, social, economic, and cultural rights, and guarantees of the acquisition of citizenship in accordance with their freely expressed will.

3. N.T. Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, is instructed to submit proposals for the question of human rights violations and discrimination against ethnic minorities in the Republic of Estonia to be included on the agenda of international parliamentary organizations.

4. It is proposed that the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly discuss on a priority basis problems connected with the position of ethnic minorities and human rights in Estonia.

5. R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, is to appear on Ostankino Television Channel One and set forth the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's position on this issue.

6. Monitoring of the fulfillment of the present Decree is entrusted to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations. The said committee is to inform the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet within a month on the progress in implementing the present Decree.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet
[Dated] Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 1 July 1993, No. 5311-1

Deputy Defends Edict

PM0707133693 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Jul 93 First Edition p 7

[Unattributed interview with People's Deputy Nikolay Medvedev, chairman of the joint Russian-Estonian commission for monitoring the fulfillment of the interstate treaty; place and date not given: "Russian Parliament Is Not Threatening Anyone"]

[Text] The decree adopted by parliament is commented on by People's Deputy Nikolay Medvedev, chairman of the joint Russian-Estonian commission for monitoring the fulfillment of the interstate treaty:

[Medvedev] Why was the question of measures to protect human rights in Estonia raised by the Russian parliament? First and foremost because large-scale, gross violations of the political, social, and other rights of national minorities are taking place there. The Law on Foreigners that was adopted in Estonia has played its part. I wish to note that the concept behind all the draft laws that have been adopted or drafted there are directed toward the realization, primarily, of just one slogan—Estonia for the Estonians. Put forward two or three years ago by ultraradical social organizations, it has now surfaced at the level of official organs of power. And indeed, it is being successfully put into practice. Elementary ethnic cleansing is taking place.

Russia is simply obliged to react to what is happening. We are not **demanding** anything and are not threatening Estonia with anything. The decree does not do that. The interstate treaty that was concluded is an international document. Its norms conform to international legal norms. A sole condition arises from this—that they should be observed. The articles of the treaty are not subject to one-sided interpretations. We believe that the people living in the territory of the former Union, now the sovereign states, should be citizens of the said states. The Estonian side, after the adoption of the Law on Foreigners, put a huge number of people in the position of illegal immigrants. What do you call that, if not discrimination and apartheid?

That is why the decree that has been adopted instructs the government to implement within a two-week period, a package of measures: political, economic, and other forms of influence. Let me stress that political measures are not ruled out. There is still an opportunity for dialogue.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What is implied by the phrase "other forms of influence" [inogo vozdeystviya]?

[Medvedev] This includes the total suspension of the withdrawal of Russian troops pending the signing of the relevant agreement.

Another detail—the government is instructed to draw up within a month a program for the protection of Russians living outside the Federation, not just in Estonia.

Chernomyrdin To Postpone Economic Report

LD0807085793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0657 GMT 8 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow July 8 TASS—Russian parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov backed the request of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to postpone his report to parliament about the course of economic reform in the country scheduled for Thursday.

He told legislators today that the prime minister had requested the postponement late on Wednesday because he was not ready to elaborate on all issues.

Khasbulatov called on the legislators "to respect" the request and schedule the report for the time when the government "is ready to express its view regarding future activities".

The speaker said that the parliament planned no "execution" for Chernomyrdin for his activities and recalled that he and the prime minister have signed a declaration of economic accord.

Those who did not join the declaration were called the "party of war" by the speaker.

'Negative' Reaction to Postponement

LD0807105293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At the morning joint session of the Supreme Soviet, the parliament is discussing a draft law on the republican budget indices. The report scheduled for today by Viktor Chernomyrdin on the work of the government in the first six months of this year on overcoming the critical social and economic situation in the course of economic reform failed to take place. Opening the session, Ruslan Khasbulatov said that last night Viktor Chernomyrdin had asked to postpone his report in connection with the fact that he was not ready to speak because he did not yet have all the necessary figures. The chairman of the Supreme Soviet called on his colleagues to treat the government's request with respect. At the same time, a statement was submitted to parliament stating that the Presidium of the Council of Ministers did not deem it possible for the prime minister to deliver his report within the timeframe set by the Supreme Soviet. Since the schedule was discussed beforehand, there was a mixed reaction to the statement among the deputies. Generally speaking, their reaction was negative. At the proposal of Vladimir Isakov, the agenda was set to include the issue of the Supreme Soviet making a statement on this issue.

Over 330 Deputies Sign Plea To Convene Congress

LD0707163193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS—Over 330 people's deputies had put their signatures to a plea for holding an extraordinary congress with a single point on the agenda: The adoption of a new Russian Constitution, Sergey Yushenkov told a meeting of the parliamentary "Coalition for Reforms" in the House of Soviets on Wednesday.

"In the opposite case, we must block the Congress of People's Deputies," he emphasized.

The participants in the meeting decided to call a conference of the coalition next Sunday, on the eve of a plenary session of the Constitutional Convention.

In accordance with a proposal by people's deputy Bella Denisenko, the conference is expected to discuss several important issues connected with the Constitution. First of all, they will consider the draft project prepared by the Constitutional Convention and define their attitude to the procedure of adoption of the new fundamental law.

The participants in the meeting also voiced an opinion that "it is not advisable to follow in the wake of those interested in adopting the Constitution at any price and by all means".

The Constitution should be adopted by legal means—that is, through a Congress of People's Deputies. The members of the coalition believe that the congress might be held as early as this month. If the leadership of the Supreme Soviet would not undertake the necessary preparations, then the task should be relegated to an initiative group.

Law on International Commercial Arbitration Adopted

LD0707141193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS—The Russian parliament has adopted a law on "international commercial arbitration" on Wednesday [7 July]. The arbitration will be used for the settlement of disputes in the sphere of international trade.

The law says that the arbitration agency should have an equal attitude to rival sides and each side should be given all opportunities for explaining its position.

The sides may agree on their own will which language will be used in the course of an investigation by the arbitration agency. The arbitration agency shall pass a resolution in a written form. The resolution shall be signed by a single arbitrator of a group of arbitrators. The resolution passed by the arbitration should point out the grounds on which the resolution was adopted, the conclusion whether a suit should be satisfied or rejected, the size of the arbitration fee, expenditures on investigation proceedings and how they should be shared by the sides concerned. The resolution passed by the arbitration shall contain the indication of the date and place of the arbitration. After the arbitration passes its decision a copy of the decision, signed by arbitrators, should be given to each side concerned.

A decision passed by the arbitration is considered a must regardless of a country where it was adopted and takes effect when submitted to court.

The preamble to the law says that is takes into account statutes on international commercial arbitration contained in international treaties of the Russian Federation and in the general law adopted by a U.N. commission in 1985 expected to be subsequently used by states by their legislatures.

Government Denies Media Reports on Inflation

LD0707210693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2027 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Moscow July 8 TASS—During Tuesday's [6 July] debates in parliament on a draft budget for 1993 first vice-premier of the Russian Government, Oleg Lobov, said that in accordance with a forecast made by the Russian Committee for Prices, the level of inflation in 1993 will amount to 1000 per cent instead of 600 per cent as had been expected earlier.

These facts have been interpreted by some media as the information on the forthcoming tenfold price increases expected before the end of the year. "In this case, some media has presented their own interpretation of the economic situation, alleging that tenfold price increases might begin tomorrow, as said by Lobov, whereas he mentioned only one of the forecasts for possible price increases for the whole 1993,"said Valentin Sergeyev, head of the press-service.

Lobov pointed out in his report that the government was taking consistent measures to curb the growth of inflation with the aim of reducing inflation rates by 10 per cent a month by the end of the year.

Unfortunately, this idea was overlooked in some media reports, the press service of the Russian Government said.

Regional Affairs

Didikov Appointed Prime Minister of Ingushetia

PM0707130393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] President Ruslan Aushev of Ingushetia has appointed Tamerlan Didikov as new prime minister of the republic. He used to be deputy chairman of the government of the Chechen-Ingush Republic and later deputy chairman of its parliament, the radio station Ekho Moskvy has reported. R. Aushev has instructed the new prime minister to submit a new cabinet list before 10 July. The president of Ingushetia signed an edict on the disbandment of the old cabinet 4 July.

Tomsk Leader Outlines Positions on Constitution

PM0807105793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jul 93 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Tomsk Oblast Soviet Chairman Grigoriy Shamin by Viktor Petrovskiy, under the "Regional Policy" rubric; place and date not given: "Status Is Not Chosen, It is Acquired"]

[Text] Grigoriy Andreyevich Shamin, chairman of Tomsk Oblast Soviet and a participant in the Moscow conference of plenipotentiary representatives of krays and oblasts, answered our correspondent's questions.

[Petrovskiy] Grigoriy Andreyevich, you signed the statement on the conditions for initialing the draft Constitution. What is the gist of it, in your view? Which is the main condition?

[Shamin] The draft Constitution must clearly formulate the principle of the equality of krays and oblasts with the republics. That will not happen while the Constitution defines the republics as sovereign states. Sovereignty for them is a source of many important advantages that the krays and oblasts lack, such as the autonomous formation of the budget, the distribution of tax revenue, and much else besides. I would propose another formula to bring the republics closer to krays and oblasts—the former would be called state-national formations, the latter state-territorial formations. The republic will have the right to self-determination in terms of language, national symbols, and culture, but politically we are all equal and that must be enshrined in the new Constitution.

Our next session will be held 6 July and I think that deputies will raise the question of the state-territorial status of Tomsk Oblast. People's deputies cannot wait for us to have equal status with the republics bestowed upon us. This is no mere whim or fancy. Our entrepreneurs and plant directors are rapidly learning the art of economic autonomy and enterprise. This means that the oblast's political structures must also try to achieve the same thing—an autonomous regional policy.

[Petrovskiy] This is probably also shown by the fact that the krays and oblasts are increasingly loudly proclaiming themselves components. Being a component means having special interests and consequently pursuing a policy for your own region. Can we already speak of the emergence of a regional policy?

[Shamin] Yes, undoubtedly. And I think that it would be far-sighted of a newspaper to assign it a special place.

[Petrovskiy] In that case, how would you define its main aspects?

[Shamin] First of all there is the regularization [vyravnivaniye] of our relations with the center. The center's absolute monopoly of policy has already outlived itself. It is time for the federal authorities to seriously begin transferring part of their powers to the regions.

The second aspect is interregional relations. Our regional policy here consists in creating interregional unions and accords. Tomsk Oblast, for example, belongs to the interregional association "Siberian Accord," whose members represent all types of components of the Russian Federation: republics and krays, oblasts and autonomous okrugs. "Siberian Accord" could become a model for the equalization of various types of components. We make decisions on the basis of consensus. Anyone who disagrees with a decision adopted by a majority of "Siberian Accord" members is allowed to refrain from its implementation. After all, interests do not always coincide. The main point is that our regional policy within the "Siberian Accord" framework is a policy of equality of all the components. That is what we want on a Russia-wide scale, too.

Maritime Kray Decides Against Proclaiming Republic

LD0807125093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] At a session of the kray soviet which ended today, Maritime deputies did not adopt a declaration on proclaiming the Republic of Maritime. Our correspondent Olga Zhurman reports Vladivostok over the phone:

[Zhurman] The discussion of this issue was ended by adopting an appeal to the Russian Government proposing to promote the status of the Maritime Kray to that of a state-legal entity within the Russian Federation, which republics have with respect to the economy.

During the discussion, deputies stressed that the idea of the Maritime Republic would not have come up if the law on the status of the Maritime Kray had been adopted in a timely way; the draft has been at the Supreme Soviet for eight months. While paying tribute to the Maritime Kray as Russia's naval gate to the Asia-Pacific region and the countries of Southeast Asia, and taking into consideration the remoteness of the kray and its years-long orientation toward the defense complex, the draft of this document envisaged a number of tax and subsidy benefits. Half a year ago only two regions in Russia—Kaliningrad Oblast and the Maritime Kray—were to have such laws. Documents were not adopted, and the crisis in the economy exacerbated further. Here, far from the center, the crisis is many times more acute.

All this presented the possibility—and probably not without grounds—for some of the kray deputies to believe that proclaiming a republic would provide the Maritime Kray with the economic rights that it would never have simply as the Maritime Kray within the Russian Federation.

Deputies could not bring themselves to proclaim the Republic of Maritime as it is too serious a step and would only aggravate the situation.

Buryatia Miners Hold Warning Strike

LD0707121893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0953 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan-Ude (Buryatia) July 7 TASS—Miners of Russia's biggest Dzhidinsky Wolfram-Molybdenum combine in Buryatia, eastern Siberia, held a warning strike on Wednesday. They put forth the following demands: to raise wages by 100-150 per cent, the right to easy taxation and state subsidies.

Miners also demand that the local district administration impose regulated prices for foodstuffs and industrial goods, supply hot water to apartment houses without interruption and exercise stricter control over crime and law-breaking.

Strikers warned that if their demands are not met by July 15, they will stop production completely.

Chelyabinsk Nuclear Center Employees To Strike

LD0707212093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Chelyabinsk Oblast Council intends to debate on Thursday the situation in the Russian nuclear center Chelyabinsk-70. According to reports, a pre-strike situation has taken shape there. Employees of the center say people have not been paid in May or June and demand that the problem of the financing of the center should be resolved in its entirety.

Yeltsin Orders Metals Plant To Sell Shares

LD0707142793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree ordering to float capital of the "Norilsk nickel" state concern which mines non-ferous and precious metals.

The press service of the president said the concern situated within the Arctic circle is to become a joint-stock company which will sell its shares to the public.

However, the state will retain the controlling interest of fifty-one per cent of shares.

Yeltsin also ruled to exempt the concern from obligatory payments of hard currency revenues to the state and lifted export duties for part of its produce. The saved money is to be used to import the necessary equipment.

Yeltsin Envoy in Leningrad Oblast Views Tasks

LD0707210593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Fomicheva]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 7 Jul—The 42-year old Fedor Shkrudnev, appointed Russian presidential representative in Leningrad Oblast by decree of Boris Yeltsin, today held his first news conference in the oblast soviet.

Thus, the president will now have a "sovereign eye" not only in St. Petersburg but in Leningrad Oblast as well, because just like other krays and republics it is a subject of the Federation, Fedor Shkrudnev told journalists. He considers the coordination of cooperation between local soviets of all levels and the consolidation of forces to resolve the economic and social problems in the oblast to be among his most important tasks. Presently, the most important business of the presidential representative is the receipt of the subsidies worth 48 billion rubles promised by the Russian Government. Without them agriculture in the oblast will simply halt. Moreover, delays in the allocations under inflationary conditions will bring to naught all attempts to help the revival of the countryside, he told journalists.

Kuzbass Sets Up Control Points To Combat Crime

LD0807100793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] The law-enforcement bodies of the Kuzbass, by agreement with the local administration, have embarked upon organizing control points on the border with Novosibirsk oblast and Krasnoyarsk Kray. In this case, regional separatism is pursuing a noble objective—to improve the complex crime situation in the Kuzbass by thwarting the entry of weapons and drugs along the Siberian highway. The control points are being set up through the funds of the oblast militia.

Severodvinsk Enterprises Face Electricity Cutoff

PM0707152193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 6 Jul 93

[By Severodvinsk correspondent Vladimir Artemevskiy; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Artemevskiy] Delays in government payments to budget-funded enterprises have placed enterprises in Severodvinsk, the heart of nuclear shipbuilding, in an extremely difficult position. The plants that are producing vital defense output are unable to pay suppliers on time and their debts for electricity and heating are mounting.

In June the deputy head of Arkhangelsk Oblast Administration decided to draw up measures to completely cut off the electricity supply to Severodvinsk enterprises unless power supply debts were settled by July. This is a forced measure, but what else can be done if the Arkhenergo Production Association is unable to wring money from its customers to pay its suppliers for coal and heating oil.

[Unidentified Arkhenergo official] We are also in debt. We owe our suppliers more than 7 billion rubles for fuel. In addition we have taken out more than 3 billion rubles in bank credits.

[Artemevskiy] Fuel deliveries have been cut off completely. Existing stocks will last only until fall.

MiG Production Continues Despite 'Nonpayments'

PM0707150993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Jul 93

[By N. Zvereva and M. Sladkov from Nizhniy Novgorod; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Despite nonpayments by the military department, production of MiG-29's and MiG-31's is continuing at Nizhniy Novgorod's Sokol Plant. This output is competitive in the world market, which was confirmed again recently by flights at Le Bourget near Paris.

However, over the past 18 months not a single fighter has been sold as a result of stiff competition in the world market. [passage omitted—plant director Pomolov defending decision to pay off debts to Hungary with MiGs]

Academy's Siberian Department Protests Lack of Funds

PM0707151393 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Academicians' Demand"]

[Text] Painters are earning more than academicians—this bitter statement is contained in a letter to Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, that was adopted yesterday at a session of the Russian Academy of Sciences Siberian Department's Presidium.

The academicians demanded that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet should not ratify the budget submitted by the government, which cuts the proportion of appropriations for fundamental research and scientific and technical programs. The Russian Academy of Sciences Siberian Department's Presidium reports that the Finance Ministry is "to all intents and purposes sabotaging" the allocation of funds—the department has so far received just 2.55 billion rubles [R] of the R13 billion that it is supposed to receive in 1993. The scientists' attitude to the government is being shaped correspondingly, the letter says.

A letter has also been sent to Russian Academy of Sciences President Yuriy Osipov proposing that he urgently convene a general meeting of the Academy with the participation of institute directors and trade union representatives. There are growing complaints among the Siberian scientists about the Academy leadership, which, as Valentin Koptyug, vice president of the Russian Academy of Sciences, stated at a session at the Novosibirsk Science Park, is "failing to defend the Academy and is to all intents and purposes abandoning it to the whim of fate." In the event of the request to convene a general meeting being turned down, the Siberian scientists intend to campaign for one to be held and will look to the Academy's Urals and Far Eastern Departments for support.

Yaroslavl Oblast Grants Farm Machinery Credit

PM0807100893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 JUl 93

[By Sergey Vetoshkin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This fine mower, simple in design, productive, and reliable, was prepared for arable farmers at Yaroslavl's Progress plant. Next to it a hay tedder not seen before in these parts—the output of the Proletarskaya Svoboda machine building plant. And thus, together with the self-propelled combine from the engine plant, a whole complex of machinery for feed production has been put into series production in Yaroslavl. Money for its development was found in the oblast budget and money from this budget was used to buy the first hundred machines from the enterprises in order to put them into operation as rapidly as possible. Of course, this is not free aid to the farms—the mowers will have to be paid for, but without any interest and only after the harvest has been brought in and sold.

That is unusual form of supplying credits to peasants conceived by the Yaroslavl people. As you can see, it has helped them greet the haymaking work fully prepared.

International Affairs

Sevastopol Protests Russia's 'Interference'

WS0807071493 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] On 7 July, at the initiative of the local branch of the Ukrainian Republican Party and the Crimean "Prosvita" [Enlightenment] Society, a meeting of city residents was held. The meeting adopted a written address to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation protesting the Russian legislature's intention to discuss the status of Sevastopol at its session on 9 July. Participants at the meeting assessed this undertaking as a well orchestrated provocation directed against the friendship between the Russian and the Ukrainian people and a rude interference into the internal affairs of Ukraine and the Crimea. The authors of the declaration called on Russian people's deputies "not to follow the provocation of political hooligans."

Romanian Delegation Visits Foreign Ministry

AU0807052593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1603 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Kiev, ROMPRES, 7/7/1993—Romanian-Ukrainian talks took place in Kiev at a Foreign Ministry level. The Romanian delegation was headed by Marcel Dinu, secretary of state, and the Ukrainian one by Mikhail Makarevich, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine.

They discussed the articulation of the new legal-political framework of the bilateral relations and the stepping up of the political dialogue at various levels, especially as regarded the organization of an official meeting between the presidents of Romania and Ukraine.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of agreeing a bilateral political document sanctioning the principles that should govern the relations between Romania and Ukraine and make the basis for the conclusion of the political treaty providing new bases, of equality, partnership and mutual advantage, to the relations between Romania and Ukraine, in keeping with the democratic changes in the two countries and all over Europe.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Reorganizes Military Intelligence

WS0807071993 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] As it has become known to a UNIAN correspondent, President Leonid Kravchuk reorganized military intelligence on 6 July. According to a presidential edict, the Main Directorate of Military Intelligence [HUVR] has been created at the Defense Ministry on the basis of the Directorate for Strategic Intelligence of the Defense Ministry and the Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Staff. General-Major Oleksandr Skipalskyy has been appointed the HUVR's chief. He is to submit the draft provisional statute of the HUVR for the Defense Ministry's consideration in two weeks. In the opinion of independent experts, the creation of the HUVR demonstrates the need of the Ukrainian leadership for a source of information other than the Ukrainian Security Service.

New Group To Combat 'Economic Crime'

WS0807080793 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution, according to which the State Service for Combating Economic Crime has been formed on the basis of the Ministry of Interior Service for Protecting Economy from Criminal Infringements. The resolution points out that the State Service is a component of the Ministry of Interior criminal militia, and that it will have its departments in oblasts, the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol, and a transport department. The service will have special divisions for combating tax evasion and other violations. Among the tasks posed before the new service are combating economic crime and abuse of power at enterprises, organizations, commercial structures, and financial, credit, and bank systems.

Kuchma on Resignation, Referendum, Agriculture

WS0707121393 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 1 Jul 93 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma by UNIAN correspondent Mariya Starozhytska: "We Must Introduce Rational Corrections"; place and date not given]

[Text] [Starozhytska] Could you tell us about the situation regarding your resignation? Your application is still on the president's table. Does this mean that one signature will be enough to make you leave?

[Kuchma] Ask President Kravchuk about this.

[Starozhytska] What is your attitude toward the recent presidential edict on elimination of presidential structures?

[Kuchma] I support this. I have kept saying that there should be one executive power instead of two. President Kravchuk has made a wise move.

[Starozhytska] Do you think that some former presidential advisers can work in the Cabinet of Ministers?

[Kuchma] There are good normal people in this group; they have to work somewhere.

[Starozhytska] What are your impressions from visiting agricultural areas?

[Kuchma] The crops are good in Ukraine and this gives grounds for optimism. People are determined to harvest. In general, I enjoy going to the country. My shoes were soiled in Odessa Oblast, but this is not mud. Mud exists in politics alone. I have been to Odessa region—I am not very familiar with it (I am not very familiar with Ukraine either; I know Moscow better, the northern and the southern test ranges....) Odessa is our granary—2 million hectares of arable land. We have worked out regulations for dealing with farmers. Farmers are demanding loans—not emission [emisiynyy] loans, but those for buying necessary things—herbicides and fuel. Besides, under the current inflation we must give to the people what was promised by the former government.

[Starozhytska] In your speeches, you have proposed holding a referendum on whether Ukraine should choose the socialist or the capitalist path of development. If the referendum is held, will you remain prime minister regardless of its results?

[Kuchma] I have depicted my program and my plan in my latest speech to the legislature. If the results of the referendum contradict my views, I will have to clear the way for someone who will have a different program.

[Starozhytska] What, in your opinion, will be the attitude of the legislature toward your program of actions?

[Kuchma] It is hard for me to answer this question. Many people in Ukraine are interested in putting an end to the prime minister although the average person's attitude is quite good. In the legislature, even in the Presidium, incredible stories are being told about me, including my health. They even say that I may die tomorrow, although these people are the only threat to my health and I will not let this happen. Thank God, I am still okay. Fables are being told about me (I know that their authors have been paid for this). There are rumors that my son works in some commercial organizations, although I only have a daughter who has just graduated from an institute; I do not have a son-in-law working abroad; Dnepropetrovsk Privatbank does not belong to me. The only effect of these fables is that I find more strength for combating these attacks; there is no other way. I can swear on the Bible that all the decrees adopted by the government have been correct. However, life is life and we must introduce rational corrections. By the way, I have never regarded myself a politician. I want to do what I should do and not be in the clouds.

[Starozhytska] Vitaliy Masol has said in his interview with KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI that he has enough strength to return and work in the government. What do you think about this?

[Kuchma] I doubt this just as I would doubt my own declarations three years after resignation. I can say one thing—the former apparatchiks did care about their health. The fact that they have managed to preserve good health should be attributed to the old system.

[Starozhytska] Have you telephoned Donbass today to learn about the state of things there?

[Kuchma] I have not. I do not want to spoil the wonderful mood after the meeting with the farmers.

Democratic Party on Control of Nuclear Missiles

PM0707124993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jul 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Golub report: "Missiles For Democratic Dictatorship"]

[Text] The Democratic Party of Ukraine has issued a statement on the nuclear weapons deployed on the state's territory. In the Democrats' opinion, Ukraine should postpone joining the Nonproliferation Treaty at least until 1995. The 46 Ukrainian-produced SS-24's and their warheads should be placed under national operational command and control. The statement also expresses a desire to obtain financial backing from the world community for the implementation of the START I Treaty and the guarantees of Ukraine's territorial integrity and security.

Political Forces Prepare for Elections

MK0807092093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 28, 11 Jul 93 (signed to press 6 Jul 93) p A3

[Unattributed report under the "Elections" rubric]

[Excerpt] The Civil Congress of Ukraine is launching a campaign to collect 3 million signatures for a full-blown referendum rather than a poll "On Confidence in President Kravchuk."

In the meantime, without waiting for the poll results, the republic's main political forces have practically started the election campaign. Volodymyr Hrynyov, former Supreme Soviet vice speaker, who foresightedly left his post in mid-June, has stated that the New Ukraine association led by him has entered the election marathon race. Hrynyov intends to campaign both for deputy and for president. The latter would cost each deputy and each candidate 1 billion karbovanets, or nearly $250,000 at the official rate. A conclusion suggests itself: The only claimants to the post of "father of the nation" could be those who manage to enlist the support of the combined groups of the old nomenklatura and the state apparatus, and the new entrepreneurs. Plus one or two candidates who have a right to say: "Foreign lands—that is, Ukrainians there—will help us." [passage omitted]

Belarus

Parties Urge Support for Shushkevich

LD0607141993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 6 Jul 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Klyuchnikova for TASS]

[Text] Minsk July 6 TASS—The Belarusian United Democratic Party and the Belarusian Farmers Party issued a joint statement to all Belarusian citizens, parties, movements and public organisations urging them to create a "broad democratic movement" in support of Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus Stanislav Shushkevich.

The latest events in the Belarusian parliament showed that "the Supreme Soviet has exhausted its usefulness and adopts "ill-considered decisions to join the non-existing system of collective security," the statement says. This explains the attempts to depose Chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich, who says that Belarus should refrain from entering military blocs and should conduct broad and fair privatisation, the statement says.

Vote Against Shushkevich Called 'Communist Coup'

WS0707145693 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1121 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Unattributed BELINFORM report: "Legislative Battles"]

[Text] On 7 July, 45 Supreme Soviet deputies issued a statement which says: "The first of July was marked by an attempt to perform a communist coup d'etat." The attempt by a large group of deputies to remove Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich from his post ended in a failure.

The statement stresses that the legislative majority is likely to take new steps to dismiss the Supreme Soviet chairman. In the opinion of the deputies who signed the statement, the leader of the legislature should bring the issues of Belarusian neutrality, early elections to the Supreme Soviet, and dismissal of the present legislature, as well as the issue on the Republic-wide elections of the local authorities, to the referendum.

The issue of the referendum is likely to be discussed at the Supreme Soviet session on 7 or 8 July. As the BELINFORM correspondents have learned, once Stanislav Shushkevich insists on holding the Republic-wide referendum, the legislative majority is going to put five issues (including the Viskuli issue and the bilingual issue) to a nationwide referendum.

Deputy Quotes Envoy's Letter on U.S. Cooperation

WS0707152793 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1055 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Statement by Deputy Lukashenko, including excerpts from a "confidential" letter by Belarusian Charge d'Affaires to the United States Martynov, read at the Supreme Soviet session on 7 July; in Russian, from the live relay—italicized passages are excerpts from Martynov's letter]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Lukashenko] Our Charge d'Affaires Martynov writes about the possible effects of Stanislav Shushkevich's visit to the United States. I am reading: *The readiness of the United States and the Republic of Belarus to cooperate in safeguarding democracy and reform. The United States' support for the independence of Belarus.* Furthermore, *contacts between the military with the aim of promoting the formation of the Belarusian Army.* Does it mean that the Americans will create our national Army? Belarus is a sovereign state. Among the other results of the visit are systematic efforts on the part of Belarus .... I am continuing: *The American side is working on the agreement on sending its Peace Corps to the assistance of the Republic of Belarus.* Stanislav Stanislavovich, do we need these volunteers? Let us invite the U.S. Army and station it on the Belarusian territory. Then, you will have no need to speak on the referendum issues at the legislature, you will do it some other way. And the last thing, esteemed deputies. I can leave the documents if you want.

[Shushkevich] Please, read the signature.

[Lukashenko] I read it in the beginning. [passage omitted]

Political Conference Sets Out Stances on Issues

LD0707171193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Larisa Klyuchnikova]

[Text] Minsk July 7 TASS—Representatives of the majority of parties and movements—participants in the third all-Belarusian political conference, which ended here today, determined their positions on major issues connected with the present political situation in Belarus.

Leader of the Belarusian Popular Front, Zenon Poznyak, confirmed a viewpoint on the illegitimacy of the present Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus. Poznyak believes that it is necessary to hold a referendum on early elections of the supreme body of state power of Belarus. Over 442,000 Belarusian citizens supported this idea. According to the leader of the Belarusian Popular Front, one of the ways of recovering from the crisis is a legitimate Rada (assembly) of the Belarusian people's republic.

Touching upon Stanislav Shushkevich's idea about convening a constitutional assembly for adopting a new constitution, Leader of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party, Oleg Trusov, considers copying of the Russian variant unacceptable, as, in his opinion, "the conditions of a federative state such as Russia, are different from Belarusian unitary statehood."

A number of parties made some reservations in the resolutions adopted by the third all-Belarusian political conference. Specifically, the delegation of the United Democratic Party considers it necessary to stress that by denying the right to hold a referendum on early elections of the Supreme Soviet, the parliament cast doubt on its legitimacy.

The Party of People's Accord considers it sufficient to seek neutrality in the issue on a military alliance with Russia as it proclaimed in the declaration on state sovereignty.

Summing up the results of the conference, Chairman of the United Democratic Party, Aleksandr Dobrovolskiy, said that the conference adopted rather important decisions which may give a lead to the first congress of world Belarusians. Different political parties and movements reached mutual understanding and coordinated their actions, and established political contacts with emigrants.

Referendum on Neutrality Postponed

LD0707173393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk July 7 TASS—A nationwide referendum on neutrality of Belarus scheduled for this autumn was postponed. No new date was mentioned.

Initiator of the plebiscite, Parliament Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich agreed at a parliamentary session on Wednesday that the vote is to be held later as Belarus is first to decide on its new constitution.

This autumn the republic "is sure to hold a referendum on the basic provisions of a draft new constitution", Shushkevich said.

Legislative Majority Leader Interviewed on Referendum

WS0807101293 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 30 Jun 93 p 1

[Interview with Henadz Kazlow, coordinator of the Supreme Soviet faction "Belarus," by newspaper correspondent Valyantsin Zhdanko; place and date not given: "There Will Be No Referendum"; first paragraph is introduction; last three paragraphs are conclusion]

[Text] The issue of holding a referendum, which was initiated by Stanislav Shushkevich, will be resolved soon. It is no secret that it depends mainly on the position of the legislative faction "Belarus."

[Zhdanko] What will you propose to the deputies?

[Kazlow] We have a number of proposals. I can admit that the initiator of the referendum could withdraw this motion. The second way out (this was proposed by Deputy Barys Savitski) is to postpone the discussion of this issue until fall. In addition, several key issues of the draft constitution could also be included in the referendum list. It is too expensive to hold several referendums. Next, there is one more variant: Perhaps we should quit the CIS. In this case, we would not have any troubles with various collective treaties.

[Zhdanko] Do you propose a union with Russia?

[Kazlow] We will consider this issue later. We could keep the status quo, like Georgia, or Azerbaijan.

In any case, if the Supreme Soviet votes for the holding the referendum, the "Belarus" faction will propose to include five issues on the list of referendum issues.

We have some more variants....

[Zhdanko] What issues, other than neutrality, do you propose to include on the referendum list?

[Kazlow] First, we present our own citation of the issue of entering the collective security treaty and do not mention any military-political blocs or the destiny of our neutrality. Second, we chose some other issues which are not so pleasant for some deputies. In order to put forward this motion, we have already collected the necessary number of our deputies' signatures. Once there is a decision to hold a referendum, I will put forward these issues.

[Zhdanko] Four additional issues? On the presidency? On the bilingualism?

[Kazlow] We are going to include the language issue too.

[Zhdanko] Do you support bilingualism?

[Kazlow] We are for a compromise. In addition, we will put forward several unexpected issues. For example, on the Belaya Vezha agreement. We have not yet asked people if they are satisfied with the current situation.

Therefore, we can expect that the legislative majority will not allow the referendum to be held or, at least, will make an attempt to introduce its own scenario of the discussion of this issue.

According to the latest reports by Shushkevich at the session, he is not keeping to the old uncompromising position and does not rule out that the issue of Belarus joining the CIS military treaty could be resolved in some other way, without bringing this issue to a national debate.

In a word, the chances of holding a referendum are very vague.

Supreme Soviet Adopts Privatization Law

WS0707154693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Report by correspondent Mikhail Rudkowski from the Supreme Soviet in Minsk]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet deputies have adopted the Law "On Personalized Privatization Checkbooks in the Republic of Belarus." This is one of the legislative acts that opens the way to wide privatization in our Republic. On the other hand, the Decree "On Implementation of the Law On Personalized Privatization Checkbooks in the Republic of Belarus" was not adopted. The deputies had proposed to vote on this document during the discussion of miscellaneous issues. Yesterday's discussion on this issue continued today, without a positive result. Nevertheless, the law will come into force in 10 days. Therefore, whether they like it or not, the deputies will have to adopt this decree.

Then, the lawmakers started to discuss the 10th paragraph of the agenda on holding a Republic-wide referendum on the most urgent issues of domestic and foreign policy of the Republic. Several people's deputies presented reports. Leanid Barshchewski was the first to take the rostrum. He explained many technical aspects of this political action, recalled the nondemocratic procedure of electing the deputies to the present legislature, and spoke regarding some of his views on the matter. I am inviting him to take part in our discussion.

[Rudkowski] Leonid Pyatrovich, what is your conception of the referendum?

[Barshchewski] The issues of the referendum should touch upon the most serious problems, eliminating the minor problems. I fully agree with Supreme Soviet Chairman Shushkevich on the matter of putting forward the issue of entering the collective security treaty for national debate. Our state must be neutral and nonnuclear. Next, the deputies of all the factions agree that we have reached a political deadlock. However, according to the current Constitution, we cannot hold new elections. A referendum is the only solution. In principle, the Supreme Soviet chairman can put forward a law on elections and the issues of early elections for the deputies' discussion. This could be the second key issue of the referendum. It will be up to the new Supreme Soviet to resolve all the urgent issues. The acting Supreme Soviet cannot resolve the constitutional issues. Fifty people's deputies of the current legislature were not elected in the direct elections. Can you imagine that 29 deputies from the Veterans' Organization were nominated at the plenary session, at which 180 members were present? Therefore, this Supreme Soviet cannot adopt the new constitution because the next Supreme Soviet will claim that the present Supreme Soviet was nondemocratic, that the constitution was bad and so on and so forth. That is why it is better to resolve the issue on early elections.

[Rudkowski] In my opinion, our deputies will not agree to hold early elections.

[Barshchewski] They must look around them, they must not live under the influence of the ideas from 1990 [the year that the first democratic legislative elections were held].

[Rudkowski] In 1990, our deputies played a political trick on the people and deceived them.

[Barshchewski] It is a dangerous trick, you can see the results.

[Rudkowski] I am sure that People's Deputy Viktar Hanchar will present a report on this issue. Now, he is next to me and I am inviting him to answer my questions.

[Hantchar] In my opinion, any discussion of holding a referendum means a continuation of a political agony. In connection with this, I think that the Supreme Soviet must adopt the only responsible decision: To name the date of the early elections and concentrate on the discussion of the law on the new elections.

Russia Grants 70 Billion Ruble Credit

WS0807100693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] RID learned at the press service center of the Russian State Committee for Cooperation that the Russian Government will grant an intergovernmental credit for the sum of 70 billion rubles to the Republic of Belarus for the purchase of goods and services from Russia. The signed intergovernmental agreement foresees that the ruble equivalent of the credit could be transferred to dollars at the rate of the National Russian Bank when payments are made. The agreement says that in connection with the favorable economic conditions in the relations between the parties, the intergovernmental credit is granted until 1 November 2008 with cancellation of the debt from 2001 to 2008.

Government Grants Credit to Tajikistan

LD0707122093 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0300 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Belarus has allocated a five billion rubles long-term credit to Tajikistan. This money is intended for the development of production, bringing new land into use, and other purposes set out by Tajik-Belarusian joint enterprises which are being set up. Belarus is the first state of the CIS to start practical implementation of economic cooperation with our republic. Specific proposals and programs have been worked out and are already being put into practice. For example, a mutually advantageous contract has been concluded on cooperation with the (?former) agricultural machinery concern Madat, while the Tajikzoloto production association and the Committee for Precious Metals of Belarus have reached agreement on setting up a joint enterprise for the extraction and processing of precious metals.

Decree Recognizes Legal Status of Nation's Border

WS0807113293 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 22 Jun 93 p 2

[Supreme Soviet decree "On National Character of the Border of the Republic of Belarus with Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, and Latvia" issued in Minsk on 11 June 1993]

[Text] For the purpose of the defense of the political and economic interests of the Republic of Belarus, the Belarusian Supreme Soviet DECREES:

1. To recognize the legal status of the national border of the Republic of Belarus with Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, and Latvia until the corresponding agreements with the aforementioned countries are signed.

2. To enact this Decree from the day of its adoption.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Soviet chairman of the Republic of Belarus
[Dated] Minsk, 11 June 1993
No 2379-XII

Supreme Soviet Decree Implements Budget Law

WS0807102993 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 24 Jun 93 p 5

[Supreme Soviet decree "On Implementation of the Law 'On Budget of the Republic of Belarus'" issued in Minsk on 4 June 1993]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Soviet DECREES:

1. To enact the Law "On Budget of the Republic of Belarus" from the day of its publication.

2. Pending the bringing of Belarusian legislative acts into conformity with the Law 'On Budget of the Republic of Belarus,' the acting legislation is used inasmuch as it does not contradict the given law.

3. To consider the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Budget of the Republic of Belarus and Local Executive Councils of the Republic of Belarus" from 15 June 1961 (Belarusian Code of Laws, 1961, No. 19, Clause 184; 1969, No. 25, Clause 372; 1972, No. 29, Clause 444; 1985, No. 34, Clause 482; 1988, No. 12, Clause 192) no longer in force.

4. For the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers by 1 November 1993:

—to submit to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet proposals on bringing the legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus into conformity with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Budget of the Republic of Belarus."

—to bring government resolutions into conformity with the given Law of the Republic of Belarus.

—to ensure that ministries, state committees, and departments of the Republic of Belarus revise their normative acts which contradict the given Law.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus
[Dated] Minsk, 4 June 1993
No 2348-XII

Kebich, Trade Union Leader Discuss Joint Agreement

WS0807113493 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1456 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent: "Government and Trade Unions Are Involved in Dialogues"]

[Text] On 6 July, Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich met with Vladimir Goncharik, chairman of the Belarusian Federation of Trade Unions [BFTU]. They discussed the implementation of the General Agreement for 1993 between the Council of Ministers, BFTU, and the Belarusian Association of Employers. The parties exchanged opinions on the current political and economic situation, on the state of affairs in working collectives, and on the ways of resolving the issues of social protection of the population under the conditions of inflation and price hikes.

Moldova

Russian Missiles Confiscated on Romanian Border

PM0707154793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Andrey Kamorin report: "Consignment of Missiles from Russia Confiscated on Moldovan-Romanian Border"]

[Text] Citing a spokesman of the Republic of Moldova Ministry of National Security, REUTER has reported that a consignment of Russian "surface-to-surface" missiles has been discovered and confiscated at Ungheni Station on the border between Moldova and Romania.

To judge from the REUTER cable, the consignment was destined for Romania, but a spokesman for that country's Ministry of Defense declared in Bucharest that his department has nothing to do with the Russian missiles. Anatoliy Krikunov, Russia's charge d'affaires in Chisinau, refused to comment on this occurrence.

At the same time Moldovan radio has advanced the version that the consignment of Russian missiles was actually destined for Yugoslavia in circumvention of the international embargo on arms deliveries to that country—which turned the Ungheni affair into a major political scandal. True, the Moldovan authorities were quick to declare that they possess no data that would confirm such a supposition.

The Embassy of the Republic of Moldova in Moscow was unable to give us any additional information on this issue. Organizations responsible for arms exports from Russia have also so far been unable to shed light on the "Ungheni mystery."

Earlier Missile Shipment Detailed

PM0807082593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Svetlana Gamova report: "There Was Indeed an Attempt To Remove Missiles From Moldova.... Back in May"]

[Text] The report carried by Moldovan national radio that containers of "surface-to-surface" missile launchers destined for Yugoslavia had been detained on the border with Romania (IZVESTIYA No. 125) caused a considerable commotion in the republic and was echoed in neighboring Romania. The local journalist's information named Russia as the freight's sender and Russia allegedly reacted immediately to the nature of the freight's contents, requesting Moldova not to publicize them.

The question of the furor that broke out at the border checkpoint seemingly surprised B. Gamurar, chief of the Moldovan Security Ministry Border Guards Department. Having made inquiries with the appropriate services, he replied that the border guards know nothing of this case because "such freight did not enter the border zone." Republic Prime Minister A. Sangheli knew nothing about missiles for Yugoslavia either, and he remarked that neither he nor the president had received any requests from Moscow concerning this.

Nonetheless there were grounds for the news sensation. Two months ago—on 5 May—customs officers at the Ungheni checkpoint stopped an automobile carrying a load of several boxes. There were no documents for it.

When requested to show documents for the load, the driver replied that they were due to arrive at the border but that they were late. The load was detained pending their receipt. When the boxes were opened they were found to contain several warheads for OSA complex missile launchers, which are designed, military specialists explained to me, to destroy a target in the air. The load transited through Moldova, but where to and where from is anybody's guess.

The republic Security Ministry did at least remark concerning this: "It cannot be claimed that the load was destined for the sides fighting in Yugoslavia." The Security Ministry press service made a statement in this connection that noted that "all the suppositions made regarding the sender and recipient belong to journalists and are premature and groundless."

But it is now known for certain that it was by no means private people who tried to take the boxes of warheads across the Moldovan-Romanian border. The official freight sender is named in the documents that have finally been received. An investigation is now under way, and the Security Ministry is not giving specific names.

Russian Army Property To Be Handed Over

MK0607084493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Jul 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] Vladimir Kitayev, ambassador at large and head of the Russian delegation to the talks with Moldova, has said that the military property of Russia's 14th Army, stationed in the Dniester region, is to be turned over to Moldova. He declared in an interview for the newspaper KISHINEVSKIYE NOVOSTI that division of army property slated for withdrawal is being done in strict conformity with understandings reached between Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur. Vladimir Kitayev advised that deadlines for the withdrawal of the 14th Army would depend on the settlement of the political conflict in the Dniester region, and the elaboration of legal status for Moldova's eastern rayons. In the opinion of the Russian delegation head, Moldova would be able to participate in the construction of housing for the Russian servicemen thanks to the funds it would get from sales of the 14th Army's military equipment.

Vladimir Kitayev advised that representatives of the Dniester region were present at the talks as participants in line with the understanding between Moscow and Chisinau.

14th Army Commander Denies Troops in Abkhazia

LD0707110293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0939 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, 7 Jul—In an interview with journalists, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army in Moldova, has refuted reports of some mass media that its servicemen have been involved in the conflict on the Abkhaz side.

I declare with complete responsibility, underlined General Lebed, that neither the equipment nor the personnel of the 14th army are involved in fighting on the Abkhaz side. The commander said that he is in control of the situation in the units.

Dniester Mercenaries Said Helping Abkhazians

LD0707143793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0732 GMT 7 Jul 93

[From Radio Chisinau relay]

[Text] The Tiraspol leaders are supporting another separatist formation, and again by force of arms. Recently, Grigoriy Marakutsa, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the anti-constitutional Dniester Republic, admitted in an interview with the newspaper SEGODNYA that Tiraspol mercenaries were fighting in Abkhazia against the Georgian Government Armed Forces. He added, of course, that the Tiraspol authorities had no connection with this, although the conclusion is his own, word for word. Consequently, it turns out that Georgia is now in a state of war with the Dniester region.

Tajikistan

Russian Commander on Clashes Along Afghan Border

LD0807085393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0800 GMT 8 Jul 93

[By Khovar News Agency correspondent Igor Akhmedov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe July 8 TASS—Nine border guards were killed and 20 wounded on the Tajik-Afghan border over the past six months, Major-General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of Russian border guards in Tajikistan, said in an inteview with the Tajik Khovar News Agency on Thursday.

The general explained that the guards were killed not in fighting but as a result of surprise firing. According to Chechulin, gunmen "suffered much greater losses—over 300 people".

Describing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, the general said that armed Tajik militants continue attempts to worm their way into Tajikistan from Afghanistan. He noted that gunmen are well armed and drilled in the tactics of guerrilla warfare at special camps situated in Afghan northern provinces.

"Some sections of the Tajik state border with Afghanistan turned into firing lines. Large groups of gunmen made four inroads over the past four months to create a bridgehead in Tajik border areas," the general continued.

"However, the attackers were defeated by Tajik Government troops operating together with Russian border guards," he added. "Three attempts by armed groups to destroy the Russian frontier post at the Moscow section of the border were also abortive.

"The situation is tense. Combat clashes and firing on Russian border guards, sometimes from the Afghan bank of the Pyanj river, happen nearly every day," the general concluded.

Islamic Party 'Irregulars' Clash With Border Guards

LD0707140493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] In Tajikistan, near the village of Vari, where an outpost of the Moscow borderguards detachment is situated, clashes are continuing with irregulars of the Islamic Rebirth Party of Tajikistan who broke through there a week ago. An RIA correspondent was told at the Tajikistan Foreign Ministry's Information Department that the irregulars are sustaining major losses. There have been no casualties among the Russian borderguards and government forces.

New Supreme Soviet Official on New Post

PM0807081793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jul 93 p 2

[Interview with Abdumajid Dostiyev, new first deputy chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet, by Umed Babakhanov; place and date not given: "Tajikistan: Friendship With Kendzhayev More Important Than Posts"]

[Text] At a Tajik parliament session that ended the other day an amendment on establishing a new post on the Tajik Olympus—that of first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet—was made to the country's constitution. Abdumajid Dostiyev was elected to this post on a contested basis by a majority of votes. Previously he was "simply the deputy chairman." Earlier still, during the civil war period, as chairman of a rayon executive committee he headed the resistance movement against the "Islamic-democratic" opposition in the Vakhshskaya valley.

[Babakhanov] Abdumajid Salimovich, former Speaker of Parliament Safarali Kendzhayev was nominated as the alternative candidate to you at the session. Does this mean that, as certain observers claim, there has been a split in the formerly monolithic antiopposition bloc?

[Dostiyev] Contested elections are a common democratic practice. The deputies expressed their attitude toward both candidates. Irrespective of any posts, he and I were and will remain, I am sure, friends. Personally I am ready to lose all my posts but not his friendship.

[Babakhanov] In recent months the Tajik-Afghan border has become a zone of chronic tension, armed provocations by Tajik opposition detachments based in Afghanistan are occurring daily. Do you consider it possible to start talks with opposition leaders to restore peace in the country?

[Dostiyev] Forgive me, but who is there to hold talks with? Eighty percent of the present government's ministers headed by Council of Ministers Chairman Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov worked in the so-called "government of national reconciliation" when in opposition. They are now fully supporting the present leadership, and we have no differences with them. Peaceful people and rank-and-file members of Islamic and democratic parties are returning from Afghanistan. They have nothing to fear. But the few people, opposition leaders, who are up to their elbows in blood do not want to return, and we have nothing to say to them.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Briefs Foreign Envoys on Current Situation

LD0707165493 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1425 GMT 5 Jul 93

[Speeches by Acting President Geydar Aliyev and adviser Vafa Guluzada at meeting with U.S., Russian, and Turkish ambassadors and UN representative in Baku; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Aliyev] Today, in connection with the existing situation in Azerbaijan, I have found it necessary to invite the ambassador of the United States of America, the ambassador of Turkey, the ambassador of Russia, and the UN representative in Azerbaijan, to give them some information and to express my views.

As you will recall, on 2 July this year, in connection with the intensive attacks of the Armenian armed forces on the territory of Azerbaijan, we invited the leaders of the diplomatic missions of foreign countries in Baku, made a statement, and appealed to all ambassadors of foreign countries. At the same time we appealed to governments through them. We appealed to all the international public, including the United Nations, its Security Council, and the CSCE, and by pointing to the intensive attacks of the Armenian armed forces on Aerbaijani territory we asked that they take necessary measures in the country [words indistinct] on this.

On 2 July, I especially appealed to the ambassador of the United States of America, the ambassador of Turkey, and the ambassador of Russia that since these countries are taking initiatives for resolving the Karabakh problem by peaceful means and are (?involved) in the work being carried out within the CSCE framework aimed at implementing UN Security Council resolution 822, through their initiative, by appealing to these countries and to their ambassadors, we especially requested that they make efforts.

On 2 July, [words indistinct] I stated that the leadership of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the CSCE mission, the mission of His Excellency Rafaelli, should come and start to implement their measures, beginning from Azerbaijan. This is what we wish. We have accepted the program presented by His Excellency Rafaelli. We are expecting His Excellency Rafaelli to come to Baku on 5 July.

Today I would like to point out with feelings of regret and surprise that the governments represented by ambassadors to whom we appealed on 2 July, when we invited them, have not taken the necessary measures. The necessary measures have not been taken on this, especially by the United States of America, Turkey, and Russia. In saying this I call on these [words indistinct] that far from halting their attacks on the territory of Azerbaijan after 2 July, the Armenian armed forces continued therse attacls even more inmtensively on 3 and 4 July. When I invited you on 2 July I mentioned that an attack had started in the direction of Fizuli; after that, on 3 July attacks began in the direction of Agdam, and yesterday attacks began in the direction of [word indistinct] and Jabrail. This means that not only have the attacks not stopped, not only have they not been prevented, but even more intensive attacks have begun.

I am surprised by this. I appeal above all to the governments of the United States of America, Turkey, and Russia. Their activity consists of these [words indistinct].

Despite all this we have been pinning our hopes on the arrival in Baku of His Excellency Rafaelli, believing that this event and his implementation of the [word indistinct] program could perhaps halt the Armenian aggression. However, this morning we had a report; yesterday I was here in my office until 2 or 3 o'clock [as heard]. There was no report about the arrival of His Excellency Rafaelli. We were ready for him today. However, we had a report today that his excellency was supposed to come to Baku, but unfortunately it was called off this time. Such a decision of his excellency [words indistinct]. Our adviser Vafa Guluzada had talks with Rome. He has certain information. He would give it to you himself. I understand this from the reports he has given me. His Excellency Rafaelli has reached this conclusion on the basis of AFP or BBC reports. I cannot say to what extent this is true. However, I do not [words indistinct] as a political and diplomatic [words indistinct], but if it is accepted on the basis of unconfirmed reports of certain agencies, this of course makes me suspicious. I cannot understand this.

The Republic of Azerbaijan and its people and inhabitants and the government of Azerbaijan earlier agreed with the CSCE to solve the Karabakh issue by peaceful ways and we are taking action in this direction. Under these cricumstances, the cancellation of the program of His Excellency Rafaelli for coming here, and his personally refraining from implementing this plan prove that the CSCE too is standing aside and thus invites us to fight with Armenia one to one. We express our anxiety over such attitudes and request of the CSCE to implement the mission [words indistinct].

I ask the ambassadors of the United States, Russia, and Turkey and I ask the leaders of these states to take a serious approach to the situation that has developed and take their own measures. Since 2 July, so far, since our first meeting, their attitude toward this task has not satisfied me. I think that if the great powers, the United States, Russia, and Turkey can fulfill their own initiative and if these states always ask the government of Azerbaijan to solve the Karabakh issue by peaceful means, then they should do what they say and stand by their promises. I ask the United Nations and its Security Council to intervene in this issue and use their facilities to take the necessary measures.

I would like to point out that I do not want to talk about the battles that occurred from 12 to 28 June. However, from 2 July uip to now, as a result of attacks carried out by Armenian armed forces, we have lost many villages, many residential areas have been destroyed and burned down, many people have been killed, most of the residents of these areas and villages have fled and are now living in the countryside in a difficult situation. All this certainly proves that Armenia is acting as an aggressor.

I would like to point out that throughout these days, we are trying to use all facilities in order to stop this unjust aggression on the part of Armenia. I personally had direct talks with the leaders of Armenia. I had talks with Vladimirov, the plenipotentiary ambassador of Russia, and I had telephone conversations with the ambassadors of Turkey and the United States. I mean, we have followed all procedures and have made efforts to use all possibilities to halt this aggression and begin to solve these problems through peaceful mens. Unfortunately, these efforts have not achieved anything. Bloody battles still continue in the direction of Agdam, in the direction of Fizuli and Jabrail.

Now, Vafa Guluzada will give the report which we have on Raffaelli's not being able to come. Then I will (?talk to you).

[Guluzada] I would like to say that as since 1 July I have been in constant contact with Rome and with His Excellency Ungaro, the ambassador of Italy in Moscow. After the incidents which began in Ganja, I convinced His Excellency Mario Sica, His Excellency Rafaelli that these incidents were our internal affairs and that we would do all we could for the mission of the CSCE which came here, and indeed hoped that these measures would soon be implemented.

Despite this, the arrival in Baku of the CSCE mission was delayed twice. The last time, I was told that His Excellency Rafaelli would come here on 3 July. After that I was told on the phone that he would come not on the 3d, but on the 5th. However, this morning I was informed that this mission would not come to Baku today due to incidents in Agdam. The CSCE allegedly received information that Agdam was lost and we would not be able to provide the necessary facilities for the mission of the CSCE here. I contacted Rome at once and spoke to His Excellency Mario Sica on the phone. After I found out about the reasons, I said that Geydar Aliyev, in his interview, was not against Rafaelli's coming to Baku, that he had not said that fighting continued in the city, and that he watnted Rafaelli to come to Baku soon. I then realized that all these reports were from AFP. The Armenians have a rather strong position in this agency. I said that it was the attempt of Armenians which hampered the arrival of Rafaelli and they did not want him to begin his work. We also pointed out that whenever the task of the CSCE is in progress they completely disrupt [words indistinct].

I told His Excellency Mario Sica that delaying such a serious job on account of information from AFP or the BBC is a rather flippant attitude. I did not expect this from the CSCE at all. I believe that there are official departments. One could refer to these departments. For example, in Azerbaijan one could refer to the Supreme Soviet, the presidential apparatus, or our official departments. However, unfortunately we did not achieve this. Nevertheless, Mario Sica promised me that he would let me know by the end of this day how long the trip will be delayed.

[Aliyev] I think that our information is complete, correct, and clear. Knowing this, I would like to point out that my purpose in inviting the ambassadors of the United States, Turkey, and Russia and the UN representative here is that these countries have a great mission in solving the Karabakh question; the United Nations has undertaken a mission through both the Security Council and the CSCE. I wish that in this grave situation everyone will fulfill properly the duty which they have undertaken.

I would also like to let you know that bloody battles continue in the direction of Agdam, in the direction of Fizuli and Jabrail. However, there have been great casualties and losses in Agdam. The town of Agdam is on the territory of Azerbaijan, as are the towns of Jabrail and Fizuli too. However, fighting is heavy and very bloody. I think that no one, including representatives of foreign countries present here, should have any doubt that all this is aggression committed by the armed forces of Armenia. It cannot be anything else, because, for two or three days we lost our lands and villages, our people were massacred, our villages were destroyed, and thousands of our people became homeless refugees.

At 0200 last night, I received a number of elders and scholars from Agdam who live in Baku. They came with tears in their eyes and told me how they suffered the bloodshed. In such a tragic situation, I think that these great countries must declare their decisive measures.

In concluding my statement, I would like to point out once again that we are urgently expecting the visit of His Excellency Rafaelli, and on behalf of Azerbaijan we give full guarantee to his excellency that he can carry out his mission. However, this guarantee is bilateral. If the Republic of Armenia or the armed forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is in Armenian hands, really want to solve the question of Nagorno-Karabakh by peaceful means, they too must guarantee this. The three great states, the United States, Turkey, and Russia as well as the United Nations must take the necessary measures to ensure that the Republic of Armenia and its forces in Nagorno-Karabakh give this guarantee to His Excellency Rafaelli. We expect His Excellency Rafaelli to come and start work soon.

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] as you have noticed, Turkey is doing all in its power to solve this problem by peaceful means.

[Announcer] It is not possible for us to broadcast the remarks of the ambassadors who took part in the meeting. No matter how surprising it might be, the ambassador of the United States, which is a democratic country, regarded the participation of journalists in the meeting as inappropriate.

Aliyev, Mamedov Hold 'Political Consultations'

NC0707181093 Baku TURAN in English 1419 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Baku July 7 (TURAN)—Yesterday political consultations between the chairman of the Supreme Soviet G. Aliyev and the leader of the opposition National Independence Party E. Mamedov lasted for several hours.

According to the information, TURAN agency received from the source in parliament, E. Mamedov was offered the post of the secretary of state. The same source reported, that in his turn, E. Mamedov asked to pass the MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations to the subordination of the secretary of state. As TURAN agency was reported, yesterday the parties didn't reach mutual consent. The head of the NIP press- service Rauf Mirkadirov informed TURAN agency that, this night the consultations between E. Mamedov and G. Aliyev will continue.

Aliyev Appoints New State Secretary

NC0707183993 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, has decreed the following:

Lale Shevket Gadzhiyeva is appointed state secretary of Azerbaijan.

Ali Kerimov is relieved of his responsibilities as the state secretary of Azerbaijan.

[Signed] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet
[Dated] Baku City, 7 July 1993

State Secretary Profiled

NC0707192293 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1723 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, 7 Jul (AZERTAC)—Doctor of Medical Sciences Lale Shevket Gadzhiyeva was appointed the state secretary of the Azerbaijan Republic today. The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev, who is executing the powers of the Republic's president, signed the decree appointing her to this post.

Professor Gadzhiyeva completed her higher studies in Baku, and then furthered her scientific knowledge in the best clinics in Moscow for 20 years. The theme of her doctoral dissertation was the organization of the emergency medical assistance in Moscow. She then practiced at the hospital named after Sklifosovski.

The new state secretary is widely involved in social affairs. She is the chairman of the international sociopolitical movement for the "democratic reforms and human rights in Azerbaijan." She also headed the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's experts group which prepared the bill on health protection for the Russian people.

She has a 12-year-old son.

Guseynov Holds First Meeting With Government

OW0707164993 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Jul 93

[From the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] On 3 July Surat Guseynov, the new prime minister of Azerbaijan, held his first meeting in the Cabinet of Ministers with members of the government. According to circles close to the Azerbaijan leadership who had talked to KHABAR-SERVICE, Surat Guseynov said he has no intention of dismissing any present ministerial and departmental heads from their posts. However, he noted that each one of them has to choose between politics and the economy.

Rafaelli Visit to Region Detailed

NC0807090493 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0818 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Baku, 08.07.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Foreign Office of Azerbaijan disproved report of INTERFAX with reference to the Armenian Foreign Office saying Mario Rafaelli arrives in Yerevan July 9. ASSA-IRADA was told by the press-center of the republican FO [Foreign Office] the note received from the Italian embassy in Russia set out the program of M. Rafaelli staying in the region: July 9—arrival in Baku July 10—negotiations and departure to Yerevan July 11—negotiations in Yerevan and return to Baku July 12—visit to Khankendi via Agdam July 13—departure from Baku to Rome.

The FO also said the visit to Khankendi is also possible providing mutual case of fire. The issue will be discussed again on Rafaelli arrival in the region.

Armenia Reportedly Seizes 24 Villages in Agdam

LD0707184593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1831 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By AZERTAC-TASS]

[Text] Baku July 7 TASS—Armenian Armed Forces have seized 24 villages in the Agdam region, where military operations were stepped up in the vicinity of the regional centre today, the AZERTAC News Agency reported, quoting the Information and Analytical Centre of the Azeri Defence Ministry.

Much of the fighting took place south of the city, the report said. The Azeri National Army has liberated nine villages since July 4 until July 6. However, despite the losses, Armenian Forces continue the offensive.

Azerbaijanis Recapture 12 Villages

LD0807110193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent from Baku]

[Text] The latest reports received here indicate that intense fighting between the forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan is going on right now in the Agdam district situated in the east and the Fizuli and Dzhebrail districts in the southwest, south of mountainous Karabakh. According to some of the reports, following the liberation of several villages of the Azerbaijan Republic by Azerbaijani forces, the military units of the Republic of Armenia are trying to safeguard their positions and have therefore dispatched 3,000 fresh troops and weapons to the fighting zones.

As a result of the latest counterattacks by forces of the Azerbaijan Republic, which are being carried out under the direct supervision of Suret Guseynov, prime minister of that country, in the arenas of battle, up to now and since the offensive started four days ago, 12 villages of the Azerbaijan Republic have been recaptured from Armenian forces.

According to the announcement by Arzerbaijan's Defense Ministry, the country's national armed forces have been able to destroy 30 tanks and 13 personnel carriers of the Armenian Republic in the course of the past four days.

Georgia

Sigua Threatens To Break Ties With Russia

LD0707182493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1807 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 7 Jul—At a meeting with journalists today, Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua said with regard to Georgian-Russian relations that "if Russia does not change and does not reexamine its position in relation to Georgia, and does not cease the undeclared war against it, and does not cease openly aiding the Gudauta separatists with weaponry, military equipment, and ammunitions, then we will be forced to recall our ambassador from Moscow." Tengiz Sigua called the trilateral talks in Moscow on a peaceful settlement of the military conflict "deliberate procrastination."

Foreign Ministry Protests Russian 'Interference'

LD0807104493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 8 Jul 93

["Statement" by Georgian Foreign Affairs Ministry from the CONTACT NEWS AGENCY; place and date issued not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The address of the so-called Confederation of the Caucasian Peoples has been spread by the Russian mass media and, in particular, the Ostankino TV news bulletins lately. They call on the citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in the Abkhaz conflict. Following an order from the military leader of the troops of the Confederation of the Caucasian Peoples, military formations are on the alert in every republic of the North Caucasus and the Russian Federation.

According to the data of the Georgian Defense Ministry, the first groups of the armed formations have already arrived in Gudauta with full ammunition. All the abovementioned facts can be qualified as gross interference in the sovereignty of the Georgian Republic and armed aggression to destroy its constitutional system and territorial integrity.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry notes with sadness that Russian official circles have not yet assessed properly the calls of the reactionary forces and actions aimed at dragging the Russian Federation into the Abkhaz war. Moreover, the Russian Federation is not taking any measures to prevent actions of unlawful armed formations on the territory of sovereign Georgia. By failing to do so, they are breaching the previously reached agreement. All this is happening against the background of the negotiations concerned with the cease-fire in Abkhazia.

The Georgian Foreign Affairs Ministry is authorized to declare that worsening of the conflict by the interference of the armed formations of Russia's North Caucasian republics causes a further escalation of combat actions in the zone of conflict in Abkhazia that may have unforeseen consequences.

Shevardnadze Postpones Visit to Turkey

LD0707183693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1819 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Tbilisi July 7 TASS—In connection with the present grave situation in Abkhazia head of the Georgian state Eduard Shevardnadze has postponed his visit to Turkey which was previously scheduled for July 9-10.

According to the press service of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Georgia, the Georgian Foreign Ministry officially informed the Turkish side about it. The new date of a visit will [illegible] agreed through diplomatic channels as soon as possible.

Abkhazians Reportedly Seize Sukhumi Power Plant

LD0807105993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0948 GMT 8 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi July 8 TASS—Fighting continued in the vicinity of Sukhumi over the past 24 hours, ITAR-TASS learnt from the press service of the Abkhazian parliament. According to information from the same source, Abkhazian troops seized the Sukhumi hyrdopower station and nearby hills.

Georgian artillery delivered a powerful strike on the city of Novy Afon at midnight, causing much destruction in that city which has many monuments of Abkhazian history and Christian culture. There were casualties among civilians, according to the source.

Abkhazia Reports Downing of Georgian Helicopter

LD0707165193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1621 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Gudauta July 7 TASS—The Abkhazian Defence Ministry reported that a Georgian MI-8 helicopter carrying a landing force was downed on Wednesday afternoon in Ochamchira district.

The crew and the landing force were killed in the crash.

The ministry also denied Georgian reports that Georgian Forces had seized the village of Agubedia.

IZVESTIYA Reviews Abkhaz Fighting, Shevardnadze Remarks

PM0807084193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jul 93 First Edition p 1

[Besik Urigashvili report: "Russians and North Caucasians Predominated in Destroyed Abkhazian Landing Force, Georgian Military Sources Claim"]

[Text] Georgian government troops have succeeded in eliminating a force landed by the Abkhazian side in Ochamchirskiy Rayon and in lifting the blockade of the road linking Sukhumi to the rest of Georgia.

To judge from reports by the press center of the Georgian troops' headquarters in Abkhazia, the landing by a Gudauta grouping suffered large losses—more than 200 people died, and many were taken prisoner. Russians and North Caucasians predominate among those who participated in the landing. Georgian television has carried an interview with two Russian servicemen taken prisoner as a result of the operation to eliminate the landing force. Military attaches of Western embassies and military representatives of the CSCE and the United Nations in Georgia have also met with the prisoners.

Heavy fighting is continuing to the northwest of Sukhumi, where Abkhazian formations have crossed the front line. By the morning of 6 July they were continuing to hold on to certain villages and important heights on this sector of the front. Georgian troops have incurred large losses near the village of Shroma, to which Eduard Shevardnadze had driven the previous day. That trip by the head of state to the forward line almost ended in tragedy. An artillery shell burst literally some 10 meters from his car, destroying a tank standing at the side of the road. This was the third time Shevardnadze's life has been put in mortal danger while he has been in a zone of combat operations.

A few hours after Shevardnadze left the forward Georgian positions in the village of Shroma, this village was practically wiped from the face of the earth by a mighty rocket and bomb strike from the air. Six Mi-24 helicopters and two Su-25 ground-attack aircraft were involved in that bomb strike. It is significant that helicopters of the Mi-24 type (commonly known as "crocodiles") have never before been recorded on the Abkhazian side. The Georgians claim that the helicopters and aircraft took off from Bombora Airbase near Gudauta, which is controlled by Russian troops.

Meanwhile, according to information from Eduard Shevardnadze's chief military adviser, Georgian troops have switched to active military operations in the Tkvarcheli salient. In this connection additional subunits and military hardware are being transferred to Ochamchirskiy Rayon.

Eduard Shevardnadze himself has declared in Sukhumi that, despite the escalation of military operations, the opportunities for peace talks have not been exhausted. He emphasized that almost no one in Georgia casts doubt on Abkhazia's rights to very broad autonomy, and he called the position of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Sunday's "Itogi" television program constructive.

More than 50 UN observers are expected to arrive in Sukhumi and Ochamchira in the next few days to record the actions of the opposing sides. The question of Abkhazia will be examined in the UN Security Council 6 July. The text of a draft resolution unequivocally condemning separatism is already known in Georgia. If Russia vetoes this resolution, in the opinion of observers, it is bound to encounter great difficulties at the G-7 meeting in Tokyo, where, according to Eduard Shevardnadze, this question will also be raised by certain Western countries—primarily Germany and the United States.

All this suggests the idea that such desperate and in many respects even adventurous actions by the leaders of the Gudauta grouping have been dictated precisely by these circumstances. There are almost no doubts that Vladislav Ardzinba and his supporters have decided to anticipate the moment when Russia will be forced to put them in their place, even despite pressure from North Caucasian republics.

Estonia

Parliament Debates Foreigners Law

LD0807104893 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpts] We will now go to the Riigikogu hall of sessions, where an extraordinary session is taking place. Here is our reporter Feliks Kaasik.

[Kaasik] Many deputies have turned up this morning for the extraordinary session, more than expected, namely 76, even though it was called less than 24 hours ago. Thank God, the deputies are taking the matter seriously. What the fate of the law on foreigners will be—which was not promulgated by the president and then returned to the Riigikogu—is difficult to predict since the session began less than two hours ago.

In the morning, an hour before the session began, a picket on the Palace Square was attempting to influence Riigikogu members as they were gathering for the session. Their main demand was that the law should be adopted in an unamended form. It is again hard to tell what kind of effect the picket may have had. There were over 10 demonstrators, at most about 20, and many of them well-known faces to journalists from many other [indistinct words].

Today's session is being chaired by Tunne Kelam, Riigikogu deputy speaker. Ulo Nugis, the Riigikogu speaker is studying in England and the other deputy speaker, Edgar Savisaar, is reportedly absent due to health reasons.

The agenda of the extraordinary session is short: the re-adoption of Estonia's law on foreigners in an unamended form. The republic's president made it known to the Riigikogu that neither he nor his spokesman want to deliver a report on this matter today. According to the existing procedures, the discussion of the agenda began with a report from the constitutional commission. Its chairman, Mart Nutt, was brief and to the point: amendments will be introduced to the law, and the law will then be adopted in an amended form. The commission presented its recommendations, or rather, it would be more correct to say, opinions, on the amendments. There are 19 recommendetions [indistinct words], and they take into account ideas from both international and Estonian experts.

Then the session transcended into the area of emotions and rhetoric. [passage omitted]

But I would like to draw the listener's attention to another factor. Riigikogu members were just now informed that a group of Riigikogu members have applied to call another extraordinary session, with one item on the agenda: suspension of Narva and Sillamae town councils' mandate until the state court has made a decision. We are of course talking about the referendums in these towns. Riigikogu members were informed that the Riigikogu chairman has agreed to call another extraordinary session. The time for this (?debate) will become clear today, whether this will be once a decision has been made on the law on foreigners or whether the the Riigikogu will meet again tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Fails To Adopt 'Unamended' Law

LD0807110393 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The Riigikogu did not adopt the law on foreigners in an unamended form. Six deputies voted in favor of adopting the law on foreigners in an unamended form and 66 voted against it, with three Riigikogu members abstaining. The law will, therefore, be adopted later once amendments have been introduced. At the moment there is a break in the proceedings until 1500 hours. [passage omitted]

Meri on Not Ratifying Law

LD0707205693 Tallinn Radio Estonia in Finnish 1930 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] [Announcer] Estonian President Lennart Meri did not ratify the Law on Foreigners in its present form. President Meri explained his stand in the main news of Estonian Television at 2100 hours [time as given] today. Pekka Lehtonen has summarized the president's television speech.

[Lehtonen] Presidet Meri spoke on television this evening to the people of Estonia and emphasized that his decision not to ratify the Law on Foreigners will increase Estonia's independence and bring it new friends in Europe. Meri said he had turned to the CSCE and the Council of Europe because he doubted that he could otherwise prove to parliament that the Law on Foreigners was badly drafted and required amendments.

He denied the claims of those politicians according to whom the president's decision would narrow Estonia's independence. Meri assured that Estonia has thus strengthened its independence. He stressed that Estonia has proved to Europe, to the world, and, above all, to itself, that its word does not differ from its deeds. What is most important, Meri stressed, Estonia has created a precedent in Europe that will give impetus to European unity. Estonia will answer for this in front of Europe, and Europe in front of Estonia, he said.

Meri also told viewers that the German and Swedish leaders had sent him messages that considered the president's decision correct and courageous.

The Estonian Parliament will meet tomorrow to discuss the Law on Aliens and the president has promised still to ratify it this week.

[Announcer] You heard a summary of President Lennart Meri's television speech this evening.

Members Comment on President's Ruling

WS0807095293 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0716 GMT 8 Jul 93

[From 8 July RAHV HAAL, PAEVALEHT, HOMMIKULEHT, p 3]

[Text] Thursday, July 8—Deputy Speaker Tunne Kelam did not consider the decision of the President [to refuse to promulgate the Law on Foreigners] "the best possible solution." He described the law as essentially "quite normal" and having considerable practical value. But he declined from commenting the presidential ruling more closely. He stressed that the ERSP [Estonia's National Independence Party] will demonstrate "good will and readiness to introduce certain amendments." Kelam further claimed that the Riigikogu would have made amendments even if the President had signed the law. "I would like to point out that the amendments are not a sign of major faults of the law, it demonstrates our willingness to relieve tensions," he said.

Olav Anton (Centrist): "Here are drawbacks in the law, it declares rather than regulates. It also caused much confusion. I accept the President's decision that the law needs amending." Anton added that the current way of passing the law was the most expensive option for the taxpayers—"they had to pay for the reception of foreign guests, the experts' opinion, extra Riigikogu session etc." Anton expressed his hope that the politicians of Narva and Sillamae will cease their anti-constitutional activities.

Indrek Kannik (vice-chairman of "Fatherland" faction): "The presidential decision is motivated in a comparatively well-balanced way and refers only to some of the CSCE and CE [Council of Europe] objections. These are mainly of technical nature and contain no essential concessions." Kannik hoped that the Riigikogu will be able to solve the problem and that the opposition will not use the quorum to sabotage the debates. "The President has promised to sign the law immediately after the introduction of amendments," he added.

Rein Veidemann (Centrist) commented: "The President's refusal to sign the law demonstrated that the European values and attitudes matter to Estonia."

Chairman of the public law commission Mart Nutt described the case of international experts interfering with the legislation of an independent state as "unique". While the amendments of the CE experts are superficial, those suggested by the CSCE High Commissioner Max van der Stoel concern the essence of the law and are harder to accept. He referred to the granting of aliens passports to every alien with residence permit or the granting of residents permits to retired military. " I find it hard to understand, how can the duties of the CSCE High Commissioner for national minorities include the protection of the rights of occupation army officers in the very state they used to occupy," Nutt stressed. He expressed his hope that the Riigikogu extra session will make amendments in the wording of the law without making concessions in matters of principle. Bowing to foreign pressure is dangerous since the imperialists' demands may reach further than just amendments to legislation, Nutt warned.

Laar Views Difficulties Arising From Foreigners Law

LD0707143593 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mart Laar told to the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE today that the president's decision to return the law on foreigners to the Riigikogu for amendments may create problems with the local elections [on 17 October] and particularly in respect of registering voters. As far as proposed amendments are concerned, he agrees to those. At the same time the premier does not find that the amendments will alter anything in the substance of the law. According to Laar, he would like to believe that the Russian- speaking population does not view the president's decision as a victory of theirs. There is a limit to (?substantial) allowances [one can make]: How far the Russian-speaking population's representatives go in their demands [words indistinct]. On those issues the government does not wish to retract, not even by a step.

Estonia's CSCE Deputy Comments on Foreigners Law

LD0707153193 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1300 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Report on interview with Vello Saatpalu, leader of Estonia's CSCE parliamentary group, by correspondents Jari Niemelae and Arto Nieminen on 7 July; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Estonian parliament will meet tomorrow morning for an extraordinary session to discuss the foreigners law. [passage omitted]

The Council of Europe and Max van der Stoel, the CSCE high commissioner on national minorities, recommended changes. Tomorrow, van der Stoel will give his views on Estonia's foreigners law to the CSCE parliamentarians in Helsinki.

In the view of Vello Saatpalu, the leader of Estonia's CSCE parliamentary group, changing the foreigners law will not solve the disputes between Russia and Estonia.

[Saatpalu] The law will not be changed because it contains some breaches of human rights, but some formulations in it need to be specified so that everything is clear in a trial if things go as far as a trial.

[Correspondent] Will that eliminate the quarrels between Estonia and Russia?

[Saatpalu] Well, for a while, only a while. The law or paragraph is not the reason why we should now change them; there are other reasons. We are leaving the Russian political system and that does not please the Russian politicians.

[Correspondent] Still about this foreigners law—if this law is changed, does that mean that your country's government is giving in because of international pressure?

[Saatpalu] I would not say so. We in Estonia take such things much more calmly than foreign countries. We have such immense experience that we do not understand why this huge hullabaloo has been raised around this law. I believe that this time too we will manage by the step-by-step method.

Velliste, UN Chairman Discuss Russian Troop Withdrawal

WS0707122693 Tallinn BNS in English 1107 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Tallinn, July 07, BNS—The Baltic states' three different positions complicate talks on the withdrawal of the Russian troops, U.N. General Assembly Chairman Stoyan Ganev said Tuesday [6 July] in a meeting with the Estonian Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste.

Ganev and the U.N. diplomats accompanying him are touring Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for a first-hand survey of the situation there.

The United Nations should take a more active part in the talks on the pullout of Russian troops, said Ganev. He voiced the same opinion Monday in a meeting with Latvian politicians who gave it their full approval, the foreign ministry's press service reports.

The Estonian foreign minister said that Estonia is willing and prepared to use all possible means to achieve success in the withdrawal talks.

Velliste also clarified to the U.N. diplomats the principles of the aliens law and the political situation it triggered.

Ganev said that international legislation does not contain direct instructions on how a state should solve its citizenship problems. In his opinion, the world does not know the Baltic situation sufficiently well. Generally recognized concepts like "national minority" forms 70 percent of Riga's population.

The U.N. diplomat said one of the reasons for the current political situation in Narva is lack of information among the Russian minority, further aggravated by the political slant of Estonia's Russian-language press.

The U.N. diplomats also met Tuesday night with the Estonian Defense Minister Hain Rebas.

Prime Minister Mart Laar, Commander of the Defense Forces Alexander Einseln, Environment Minister Andres Tarand and President Lennart Meri will meet with the diplomats July 7. Ganev and Velliste will give a joint press conference at the Tallinn Press Center.

Laar Meets Chairman, Seeks UN Intervention

LD0707122893 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mart Laar met with Stoyan Ganev, president of the 47th session of the UN General Assembly, on Toompea today. After their meeting Mart Laar said that the UN representative was given a substantial idea of the issues concerning Russian troop withdrawal from the Baltic states, as well as the background to the current Estonian-Russian conflict. The prime minister described today's meeting as very positive. Inasmuch as no considerable success has been achieved in the foreign troop withdrawal from Estonia and Latvia, Mr. Ganev viewed the situation as serious and considered it necessary to take steps for the UN secretary general to intervene personally and urgently.

Finance Ministry on Paying Russian Gas Debt

WS0607101193 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0741 GMT 6 Jul 93

[From 6 July HOMMIKULEHT, p 11]

[Text] Tuesday, July 6—The Ministry of Finance proposed to the Government that the company "Estonian Gas" should be earmarked 5 million dollars from the Japanese loan and 3 million from the Swedish Exportkredit loan to pay the Russian gas export company "Gazprom". As said by "Estonian Gas", "Gazprom" would be happy if part of the 80 million kroon debt would be remitted by July 10 and the rest by Aug 1. The Japanese loan being administered by the World Bank, the Government can use for the time being only the Swedish loan.

Latvia

Ulmanis Elected President; Biography Given

WS0707150293 Riga LETA in English 1420 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Riga, July 7 (LETA)—Guntis Ulmanis, a nominee by the Farmers Union, was elected the president of the Republic of Latvia on Wednesday [7 July] session of the Latvian Saiema or parliament. The candidate won 53 ballots of 79 deputies of the 100-seat parliament on the third round of vote. After the first vote one of his rivals, candidate of the "Latvian Way" faction Gunars Meierovics withdrew his candidature, and the other nominee, candidate of the Christian Democrats Aivars Jerumanis, did not collect enough support during the second vote to pass to the third one.

Guntis Ulmanis, 54, has been nominated a candidate for the presidency by the Latvian Farmers Union. Not like the other two candidates, he has been living in Latvia all his life, except those six years which he and his family spent in the Siberia, where they had been deported to in 1941. After returning to Latvia he entered the Latvia University. He was a Communist Party member, which he left in 1989. He joined the Latvian Farmers Union at the end of last year. He is a career economist, and until now he has been a board member of the Bank of Latvia. He is married, and father of two. It is worthwhile to notice, that he is a grand-nephew of a founder of the Latvian state and its last president Karlis Ulmanis.

To Nominate Birkavs as Prime Minister

LD0707161193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1547 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Riga July 7 TASS—Newly elected Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis is going to nominate lawyer Valdis Birkavs as prime minister of the republic, Ulmanis told reporters at his first press conference on Wednesday [7 July].

Birkavs is deputy parliament speaker at present.

Ulmanis said that the doors of his office will be opened for any constructive ideas. Latvia will show goodwill, flexibility and firmness at the same time, he stressed.

The president said he will see to it that the parliament concentrates on resolving most burning problems of the population. He admitted that his election to the post of the president was to a certain extent influenced by his distant relative Karlis Ulmanis who was the Latvian president in the '30s and is considered to be among the founders of the Baltic Republic.

"In that I am sitting before you is a certain merit of Karlis Ulmanis" who was Guntis' great uncle. "I want to borrow from him everything he gave to his people", he added.

Holds News Conference

LD0707193693 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1230 GMT 7 Jul 93

[News conference by President Guntis Ulmanis in Riga—live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] Good day. We commence the news conference with the newly elected state president of Latvia, Guntis Ulmanis.

[Ulmanis] Thank you. Good afternoon. Once again, under slightly calmer conditions—and I have just composed myself—[words indistinct] what we have all worked through.

To begin with, I would like to thank all those deputies who elected me. I would like to thank all the deputies of the Supreme Council who voted for me as state president. I would like to thank my family, first my wife, my daughter and son, who were a great support for me during the difficult pre-election campaign process. My family has always been a support for me, both at moments when things have been very hard as well as when they have been sometimes better. Although I am perhaps too serious and smile too little, what can be done about it? That's my character. But essentially that's not so bad.

Meeting today with the journalists of Latvia, people who love information and want to write, I came here today thinking: In my whole life I have probably never had a conflict with a single journalist, with a single cameraman. I would very much like to preserve that [word indistinct] in the future.

To enable you to ask me more or less tricky questions, I would like perhaps to say a few words about what we all will begin with.

I believe that the president has to work together with the Supreme Council, without discriminating between factions as better or worse, or as more favorite or less favorite. (?Then) together with 100 council deputies we have to form a workable and constructive team which would be able to successfully continue the work that has already started. I think that we should not launch into criticism of what has not, perhaps, been done properly before. On the basis of what has been done, we have to seek how to make this work better in the future. [passage omitted]

Taking into account the presidential duties stipulated by the constitution, the Supreme Council should work independently. And yet, I do not think that I will be a passive president. I will try to consider all draft laws received, and will be trying together with the council leadership to bring forward the issues that are the most painful for our nation.

In my opinion, these are the following issues: the issue of Russian troop withdrawal and the issue of relations with Russia. I think, therefore, that the issue of the talks with Russia seems to be one of the most important at the moment. I think that at these talks we have to show goodwill and be flexible enough; at the same time we must remain resolute.

I thought one of my initial aims when I started the election campaign was what is the most important: wisdom, human perception, or fairness. [passage omitted]

[Austrins] Good day, Mr. President. Imants Austrins, Radio (SWH). Shortly before being elected, you said you would give an interview with our station, irrespective of the election result, and it is a pleasure for me that the possibility of a favorable result exists. I note that in Latvia the surname Ulmanis is very much in the tradition of the president, and I wonder whether there are any [word indistinct] from your uncle that you will use in your own work too?

[Ulmanis] I tell you openly, that's a difficult question, and a very long, long and complicated question. In my speech I went around this question, in the hope that one day we would talk perhaps through our work, and also at one of our meetings, when perhaps we could go through these questions in more detail.

I said in the newspaper DIENA that the possible reason for my election would definitely be a certain coincidence of historical circumstances. I still think that, and I believe that the fact that I sit here before you today is also thanks to Karlis Ulmanis. I think that I have said a lot about that, and I will strive to take over everything that he has given his people through his work, through his patriotism, through his love of his land, I perceive him as a national figure, who [words indistinct] is good from evil. But we are living with quite a big interval since 1940, and we must also show what we ourselves have (?achieved): all of us as a people, and I together with you. If I may, that's how I would like to answer that question. [passage omitted]

[Jurkans] Dainis Jurkans, LAUKU AVIZE newspaper. Wishing you much luck and success! And a question: Does Your Excellency regard Himself as the fourth or the fifth president of the state of Latvia?

[Ulmanis] Thanks to LAUKU AVIZE for that question posed in their characteristic style. But I hope you will excuse me if I leave it to you to do the counting yourself.

[Correspondent] Latvian television. Mr. Ulmanis, do you have a person in mind whom you will nominate to the Supreme Council as prime minister?

[Ulmanis] [passage omitted] Such a candidate, if nothing changes overnight and if there are no other proposals, could be Valdis Birkavs.

[Celle] Ojars Celle, of the American-Latvian newspaper LAIKS and the journal [words indistinct]. Mr. President, we all know that about 10 percent of the Latvian nation live abroad. What is your view of how we could better promote the integration of these people into Latvia, as well as their return to Latvia?

[Ulmanis] That is a very complicated question. But in principle, for me personally, it is a simple question. All Latvians who can do it, who want to, and who love their land, must return to Latvia and must do what lies in their skill and power. And we who have simply lived here all this time must do everything to make this return very (?welcome).

[Kirsons] Maris Kirsons from the DIENAS BIZNESS newspaper. Mr. President tell us please, which economic issue will you assign top priority? Thank you.

[Ulmanis] I understand that the economy is a very complex question and I would not like this time to give special priority to anything. In my opinion, at the moment agricultural policy is very important for our state; we should continue this policy. The problem which concerns anyone is objective, just, and speedier promotion of the privatization process. I almost wanted to say completion, but that is probably a long process, right? So then, these could be a kind of main direction at the moment, right?

[Correspondent] LAUKU AVIZE. Could the president (?cast light) on his own personal economic viewpoints?

[Ulmanis] Well, that is similar to delivering you a lecture on the international situation, right? It is of the same breadth. I think that my economic viewpoints are reflected in the election program of the Union of Peasants and my economic viewpoints agree on very many issues with the economic program of the Latvian Way as well as with the economic programs of some other parties. And I think that they should be directed, as I said before, first of all toward the acceleration of the privatization process. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] LATVIJAS JAUNATNE. Why did you enter the Communist Party, and were your relatives (?able to do so) at the beginning.

[Ulmanis] I entered the Communist Party while serving in the Army. I don't want to say that I was young and dumb, but I was working in circumstances where I was once formed by communist activity. All of us were offered entry into the party. I once said to the regiment commander that I'm related to Ulmanis. He said: So what? Ulmanis was a good manager. Seriously though, I later talked with that colonel. He knew quite well about Latvia's history, Baltic history let's say, and knew Ulmanis' personality. At the time I was even amazed that he knew not only those political aspects, but he even knew that he was a good manager. And that's how I got into the party.

In 1989 I left the party, and by this time on several occasions the question had been examined of expelling me for being related to Ulmanis. I wasn't expelled. Several times I had to change jobs because of being related to Ulmanis. A couple of times I had to take up posts I was forced into at the time—chief of an economics department, chief of the manufacturing administration—because I was in the Communist Party. As far as my conscience is concerned with regards to the Communist Party, here my conscience is clear, and I think that I (?can clarify) my past today. [passage omitted]

Parliament Adopts Statement Supporting Estonia

LD0707155993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 7 Jul 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga, 7 Jul—Today, the Latvian Saeima adopted a statement expressing support "for Estonia's effort to eliminate the consequences of occupation and colonization." The document stresses that the Latvian parliament "views the threats coming from Russia's power structures and the sanctions undertaken against Estonia as blatant political pressure with the purpose of retaining the Baltic states within Russia's sphere of influence and splitting their unity." Deepening cooperation between the Baltic countries, the statement says further, is especially important "when Russia has chosen a course toward confrontation with Estonia, a member of the family of Baltic countries."

Lithuania

Butkevicius Discusses Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD0807135093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 8 Jul 93

[News conference by Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius with local and U.S. reporters in Vilnius on 8 July—recorded]

[Text] [Butkevicius] We think that the withdrawal of Russian troops will be completed by the fixed date, 31 August. We believe that this will be done in an organized and civilized manner, as it is being done at present. Our contacts with our Russian colleagues are very good. They are ensuring the organization of the withdrawal.

I cannot say anything about a political agreement as this is the responsibility of the negotiating delegation and of the president, but I think that all the necessary approaches and conditions exist for this. If the main agreement is not signed, we have the necessary documents for the organization of the withdrawal, and we are already applying them. So, such an agreement may be concluded later. As as far as property is concerned, that will be solved in the main agreement. I think this will be done as soon as possible.

[Unidentified correspondent] Minister, you have compared last year's situation with the present one.

[Butkevicius] When we started talks with Russia, there were 35,000 Soviet servicemen in Lithuania. On 8 September, when Mr. Grachev and I signed the timetable of the withdrawal, there were 22,000 soldiers and officers, and today there are 7,200. I can no longer talk about these structures as armed forces. They are people who are completing the withdrawal, who are engaged in dismantling. They will leave very quickly when the major work is finished.

[Correspondent] And the last thing, Minister. American journalists were concerned about your position after 31 August, your attitude toward the Baltic region, and Lithuania's place in it.

[Butkevicius] Lithuania and other Baltic states are well aware of the fact that to talk about ensuring security with our own forces is not realistic. Therefore we are very interested in the European security structures and the possibility of us taking part in them. What will they look like? Will they be formed on the NATO basis and [words indistinct], or will the new French initiative have the upper hand, or will the organization of the West European Union be serious, one cannot tell. But we are looking for our place in the common European house. I must say that we cannot talk about security in Europe without including Russia into it. Any isolation of Russia would only increase instability. Thus, I think, Lithuania and other Baltic states will be main assistants in Russia's integration into Europe progressing possibly faster and in a more intensive way.

Slezevicius on Relations With Russia, Gas Debt

LD0807143793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 Jul 93

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius does not think that Russia is applying pressure on Lithuania. He stated this on 7 July at a news conference devoted to bilateral relations.

Russia's suspension of the supply of natural gas was called by Slezevicius a normal trade dialogue. When the buyer has debts for approximately half a year's supplies, almost any supplier would act the same way, stated Slezevicius. The problem of covering the debt for the supply of natural gas—and it amounts to $43 million—is being solved gradually.

He said that $10 million have already been paid and another $15 million will be paid within the next few days. The dialogue about ways of paying the debt will continue with the general director of the Russian concern Lentransgaz, who is coming today to Vilnius. The prime minister also said there is a possibility of signing a free trade agreement between Lithuania and Russia.

Brazauskas Meets Ukraine's Kuchma, Signs Agreements

LD0707211893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 7 Jul 93

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and members of the Ukrainian Government delegation were received today by President Algirdas Brazauskas. The meeting took place in a sincere friendly atmosphere.

Leonid Kuchma conveyed greetings from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to the Lithuanian president. A great deal of attention was devoted at the meeting to mutual relations and those of both states with neighboring countries—Russia, Poland, and the European Community. Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma asked the Lithuanian president to support Ukraine in joining the European Council.

Agreements on land and air transport, electricity, postal communications, legal aid, and other documents regulating bilateral relations between the two countries, including a protocol on trade and economic cooperation were signed. It was agreed that a bilateral free trade agreement will be drawn up by the end of the month, which is to be signed in the Ukrainian capital.

Slezevicius, Kuchma Hold News Conference

WS0807150193 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1255 GMT 8 Jul 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 282]

[Text] 8 July 1993—There are no obstacles to develop cooperation between Lithuania and Ukraine which is not sufficient yet. The governments of both countries assume the responsibility to create favourable conditions for reciprocal trade, activity of economic subjects and other types of encouraging of cooperation development for this matches the interests of both countries. Such conclusions were made by Lithuanian Prime Minister Mr Adolfas Slezevicius and head of the Ukrainian Government Mr Leonid Kuchma during the press-conference on July 7 after the completion of negotiations between Lithuanian and Ukrainian governmental delegations. Around 10 ministers or their deputies were representing each party during the Lithuanian-Ukrainian negotiations. Ukrainian representatives emphasized the necessity to have transit and other arteries of communications in the Scandinavian direction, and the Ukrainian roads and it's southern seaports open exit to the Central and Eastern Europe and further eastward. Delegations signed the documents concerning land and air transportation, electrical and postal communications, juridical help and other documents regulating bilateral relations among which is the protocol of trade and economical cooperation. All of them are considered an important turn-point. There are obstacles to be removed and that is going to be done in the nearest time. While the countries have no hard currencies of their own, it is necessary to find the ways of payments. The Heads of the Governments obliged corresponding institutions to resolve this question within 10 days. They also agreed to prepare a bilateral free trade agreement by the end of July and it is going to be signed in the Ukrainian capital. The questions of embassies' settlement in the capitals of the countries, trade missions opening and establishing of Lithuanian cultural center in Ukraine have also been discussed. At the end of negotiations, a dinner was given to the Ukrainian delegations from behalf of the Lithuanian government.

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas received Ukrainian Prime Minister Mr Leonid Kuchma and the group of the governmental Ukrainian delegation members on July 7. The meeting took place in sincere and friendly atmosphere. Leonid Kuchma extended Ukrainian President's Leonid Kravchuk's regards to the Lithuanian President. On his behalf, Algirdas Brazauskas gave his kindest regards to the Ukrainian President. Leonid Kuchma noted that Lithuania's lessons fighting for freedom and independence were very useful for Ukraine and it's people. Many processes that Lithuania was undergoing were repeated in Ukraine, he said. Algirdas Brazauskas and Leonid Kuchma talked about the political and economical situation in both countries. They expressed their faith that economical, trade and cultural cooperation between Lithuania and Ukraine, having great history and noble traditions, will be extended to many spheres of life. It was stressed that such cooperation is necessary for searching for alternative energy supplies. Lithuanian President and Ukrainian Prime Minister supported the establishment of Lithuanian- Ukrainian joint ventures. According to the guest, the environment for such ventures in Ukraine are more favourable than in Lithuania. Much of the attention was paid for the relations of both states with their neighboring countries—Russia, Poland, and with European Community. Premier Leonid Kuchma asked from the Lithuanian President for a support in Ukraine's attempt to enter the European Council. Algirdas Brazauskas responded that he would very much like to see Ukraine in this organization. The guests invited by the Seimas Chairman Mr Ceslovas Jursenas visited the Seym's session hall and the plenary session.